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Alert public about air toxicity

House body asks ministry

RASHIDUL HASAN

Due to hazardous levels of air pollution, a parliamentary body yesterday asked the environment, forest and climate change ministry to take measures so that the health ministry issues a public health alert urging people to avoid the capital, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Chattogram cities, unless it is an emergency.

If implemented this would be the first ever initiative that warns people about the country's hazardous level of air pollution. Awami League MP Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on environment, after a parliamentary meeting, told The Daily Star that in the public health alert, people would be urged to not visit Dhaka, Narayanganj, Gazipur and Chattogram cities, unless it is urgent, as the air pollution in these cities have reached hazardous levels.

According to the World Health Organization, AQI up to 50 is considered as safe level while AQI having 300 is considered as hazardous level.

Saber also said the committee was informed that the air quality index (AQI) of Dhaka was 479 yesterday. In Narayanganj, AQI was 420 while in Gazipur and Chattogram, it was above 300.

Saber added that countries like China, Thailand and even India issue public health advisories if their AQI reaches 300. "In that case, they keep their schools and colleges closed," he said.

"In Bangladesh we have also asked to

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is all smiles as she looks at the exhibits at a trade fair of products made of jute at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital yesterday. Story on B1.

PHOTO: BSS

Target \$20b investment

High-profile Saudi team in town to explore investment opportunities in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh expects Saudi investments of up to \$20 billion in various projects, including high-speed train link, oil refinery and an aircraft repair and maintenance facility.

"Investments worth \$15b to \$20b will come from the Saudi government for 16 projects," Kazi M Aminul Islam, executive chairman of Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), said.

He was speaking at briefing at his office yesterday ahead of a meeting between the two countries today.

A 34-member Saudi delegation arrived in Dhaka last night to join the meeting. Commerce and Investment Minister Majed Bin Abdullah Al-Qasabi and Economy and Planning Minister Mohammed bin Mezyed Altwaijri are in the team.

The BIDA chief said financing agreements and MoUs on some projects would be signed while discussions on some others would be held during the meeting at Hotel InterContinental Dhaka.

From the Bangladesh side, foreign, finance, planning, commerce, industries, and power and energy ministers and the prime minister's adviser on private industry and investment will take part in the meeting. Besides, top officials of the Prime Minister's Office and BIDA will be present.

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Bangladesh expects Saudi investment in 16 projects

High-speed train to Cox's Bazar, other cities

BPC-ARAMCO oil refinery, petro chemical complex

Aircraft repair, maintenance facility in Lalmonirhat

Two fertiliser plants (DAP, urea)

Developing services of Teletalk

Joint Venture hydro-power plant in Nepal

Cat that can't catch rats is useless

HC to ACC on Jaha Alam case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said the Anti-Corruption Commission must take the responsibility for Jaha Alam not getting bail much earlier.

The ACC should have taken initiatives so that Alam, who was wrongly in prison for three years because of an identity mess-up, obtains bail when it came to know that he is innocent, the court said.

The bench of Justice FRM Nazmul

Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the observation while hearing a rule issued by the same bench regarding acquittal of Alam of the cases in which he was not an accused.

The judges said the ACC is an independent institution and it should be transparent, saying that "what is the use of the cat that cannot catch rats".

The HC bench said, "We don't want the people to have a negative perception about the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Therefore, the commission will have to take action against the corrupt. Our morality has declined though the country's economic condition has improved."

The court directed the ACC to submit all the documents regarding the loan scam cases filed against Alam and others before the court and fixed April 10 for further hearing.

On February 4, Alam was released from Kashimpur High Security Jail after the HC exonerated him from 26 corruption cases.

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CHAWKBAZAR FIRE

11 of the dead identified thru' DNA test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The CID's Forensic DNA Laboratory has so far identified 11 bodies, burnt beyond recognition in the fatal Chawkbazar fire, through DNA tests.

Of them, eight were handed over to the victims' relatives yesterday.

Rumana Akhter, special superintendent of CID Forensic DNA Laboratory, said they cross-checked samples from 20 bodies with those of some people whose relatives had been missing since the February 20 fire incident.

A total of 48 people gave DNA samples to the CID.

Identification of the rest of the nine bodies, now at morgues of different city hospitals, might take

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Massive snow maze sets world record



AFP, St. Adolphe

A-maze-ing: a snow labyrinth in the frigid, wind-swept prairies of Western Canada has broken the record for the world's biggest.

According to Guinness World Records, the whopping 2,789.11 square meters (30,002.73 square feet) of terrain dwarfs the previous Canadian record holder at the Fort William Historical Park in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

For years, farmers Clint and Angie Masse would ring in the fall harvest by building a corn maze on their property just outside of the small town of St Adolphe, a short drive from Winnipeg, Manitoba.

With a long, cold winter in the Canadian forecast, they decided late last year to try to extend the

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Jashore rape accused killed in 'gunfight'

Another girl allegedly raped in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A rape accused was killed in a "gunfight" between two groups of drug peddlers in Jashore town's Kholadanga area early yesterday.

The dead, Shamim, 30, was the prime suspect in a case filed over the rape and murder of an eight-year-old girl in the district.

Shamim was also involved with drug trading and terrorism activities, claimed police, adding that he had 17 cases against him with different police stations and was the mastermind of the explosions of crude bombs in Harijan Colony five days ago.

Shihabur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Puraton Kasba Police Outpost, claimed that they raided the Kholadanga area around 3:00am on information that two groups of drug dealers would meet there.

When the law enforcers reached the spot, the drug dealers were already engaged in a "gunfight", the OC said, adding that sensing police presence, the criminals escaped the scene, leaving Shamim behind with bullet injuries.

Doctors declared Shamim dead after he was taken to Jashore General Hospital, the OC said. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

More holes found in Indian narrative

Satellite images show JeM buildings in Pak appear to be still standing days after Delhi's air strikes

REUTERS, New Delhi

High-resolution satellite images reviewed by Reuters show that a religious school run by Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in north-eastern Pakistan appears to be still standing days after India claimed its warplanes had hit the Islamist group's training camp on the site and killed a large number of militants.

The images produced by Planet Labs Inc, a San Francisco-based private satellite operator, show at least six buildings on the madrasa site on March 4, six days after the airstrike.

Until now, no high-resolution satellite images were publicly available. But the images from Planet Labs, which show details as small as 72 cm (28 inches), offer a clearer look at the structures the Indian government said it attacked.

The image is virtually unchanged from an April 2018 satellite photo of the facility. There are no discernible holes in the roofs of buildings, no signs of scorching, blown-out walls, displaced trees around the madrasa or other signs of an aerial attack.

The images cast further doubt on statements made over the last eight days by the Indian government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the raids, early on February 26, had hit all the intended targets at the madrasa site near Jaba village and the town of Balakot in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

India's foreign and defence ministries did not reply to emailed questions sent in the past few days seeking comment on what is shown in the satellite images and whether they undermine its official statements on the airstrikes.

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Seminar on "Advancing Nursing and Midwifery Education and Services in Bangladesh"

Speakers

Speaker	Designation	Topic
Sister Rita Cruze	Principal, Kumudini Nursing College	Kumudini: A Journey through Dedicated Nursing Services in Bangladesh since 1944
Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Halim	Principal, Kumudini Women's Medical College	Critical Look into Nursing and Midwifery Services in Bangladesh towards SDG 3.
Ms. Suraiya Begum	Registrar, BNMC	Nursing and Midwifery Education in Bangladesh
Dr. Md. Mofiz Ullah	Prof. of College of Nursing, Mohakhali, Dhaka	Trends of Nursing Services in Bangladesh
Rondi Anderson	International Midwifery Specialist, UNFPA Bangladesh	Scope & Challenges in Midwifery Services in Bangladesh
Dr. Monira Parveen	Canadian Field Manager, Cowater Int.	Advancement of Nursing in Bangladesh in Recent Decade
Dr. John Newman	Surgeon, USA	Nursing Services as seen by Surgeons
Eileen Mushock	Nursing Specialist, Sterile Processing Department, Kansas, USA	Sterilization in Operative Procedures—Standards and Role of Nurses
Windy Little	Registrar Nurse, Ohio, USA	Advancement in Nursing Services

Organized by **Kumudini Nursing College**

Venue: B.P. Pati Hall, Kumudini Women's Medical College, Mitcapur, Tangail.

Date & Time: 11 March 2019, 9:00 am to 1:30 pm

Email: kumudininursing@yahoo.com, kumudinihospital@kumudini.org.bd

For Registration Please Contact: 01816-863806, 01730-090295, 01730-090299

১১তম আন্তর্জাতিক পোল্ট্রি শো ও সেমিনার

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পোল্ট্রি শো: ৭-৯ মার্চ ২০১৯

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আয়োজনে: **PRAYER TIMING MARCH 7**
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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তারিখ: ০৮ মার্চ - ১০ মার্চ, ২০১৯
(শুক্র, শনি ও রবিবার)

সময়: সকাল ৮:০০টা হতে রাত ৮:০০টা পর্যন্ত

স্থান: বাংলাদেশ শিশু একাডেমি, ঢাকা

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