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Dhaka air unsafe even before winter

Finds study on the city's air quality in last 5 years

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Overall air quality status in Dhaka previously showed that winter was the most polluted season. But according to a study, things are changing in recent years.

Air pollution in the city reaches "unhealthy" level even before the winter sets in, exposing its residents to health risks.

Dhaka's air remained unsuitable for breathing for more than half of last year. The air quality remained "very unhealthy" and "extremely unhealthy" for 197 days, according to an analysis of Air Quality Index data, monitored by the Department of Environment under its Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) project.

The duration of the "unhealthy" air level is increasing day by day, it said.

According to the approved Air Quality Index (AQI) in Bangladesh, an AQI range between 151-200 is categorised as "unhealthy", while the range between 301-500 is classified as "extremely unhealthy".

A study by environment researcher Atik Ahsan found that the capital's air quality category ranged between "unhealthy" and "extremely unhealthy" for 165 days in 2014. The duration increased to 173 days in 2015, 185 days in 2017 and 197 days in 2018.

"Roads in Dhaka remain unclean almost round the year. Repair and maintenance of the roads by different government agencies worsen the situation as there is no proper management of the sites. It is alarming that Dhaka's air quality never improves for a day in January and February," said Atik, a medical anthropologist and a former senior research investigator of the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr).b)

Experts blamed increasing number of construction works, rise in the number of vehicles and worsening traffic congestion for the decreasing air quality of Dhaka. The operation of brick kilns around the capital in the winter in full swing aggravates the situation.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



As thick smog envelops the area, a motorcyclist covers his nose with one hand on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Chera Ali Bazar in Tongi. Air quality in the capital and its outskirts is becoming unhealthy though the winter has yet to set in. The photo was taken last week.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Small fine for 1st time offenders

DMP boss says on new Road Transport Act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After the week-long public awareness programme on the new Road Transport Act finishes, police will fine small amounts to first-time violators of traffic rules.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Shafiqul Islam made the remarks while attending a press briefing at DMP Media Centre yesterday.

"We will inform them [first-time traffic rules violators] about different sections of the new Road Transport Act. We will tell them that they can be punished with a fine up to Tk 25,000 in future," he said.

Strict rules and the fear of being penalised with a hefty amount would improve discipline on roads, the DMP chief hoped.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 5

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-15
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 4-15 5-34 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

ANTI-GRAFT AGITATION Over hundred students confine JU VC for hours

JU CORRESPONDENT

Demonstrating students kept Jahangirnagar University Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam confined to her residence since yesterday evening, demanding her resignation over allegations of corruption.



Over 100 students took position in front of the VC's residence around 7:00pm and were continuing the demonstration when this report was filed early today.

"We have confined the VC to her residence. We will stay here until she resigns from the post," said Mahathir Mohammad, general secretary of JU Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

About 25 teachers joined the agitating students soon after they started demonstrating around 7:00pm.

WHY ARE JU STUDENTS PROTESTING?

The agitated students of JU have been demonstrating on the campus since August 23, demanding the relocation of three male students' dormitories which the authorities planned to construct near the Rabindranath Hall, and judicial probe into the allegations of corruption and irregularities that took place before the approval of these construction projects.

The students and teachers also protested against the corruption by the authorities and unplanned development works, which would endanger biodiversity on the campus.

NUKE DEAL WITH WORLD POWERS Iran announces new violations

It now operates twice as many advanced centrifuges banned by the 2015 accord

AP, Tehran

Iran yesterday announced its latest violations of the nuclear deal with world powers, saying that it now operates twice as many advanced centrifuges banned by the 2015 accord and is working on a prototype that's 50 times faster than those allowed by the deal.

The announcement came as the country marks the 40th anniversary of the 1979 US Embassy takeover that started a 444-day hostage crisis.

By starting up these advanced centrifuges, Iran further cuts into the one year that experts estimate Tehran would need to have enough material for building a nuclear weapon — if it chose to pursue one.

The comments by Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, came ahead of an expected announcement by Tehran of the new ways it would break the accord.

Already, Iran has broken through its stockpile and enrichment limitations, trying to pressure Europe to offer it a new deal, more than a year since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord.

Speaking to state TV, Salehi said Tehran is now operating 60 IR-6 advanced centrifuges — twice as many as before. Such a centrifuge, an IR-6, can produce enriched uranium 10 times as fast as the first-generation IR-1s allowed under the accord.

The nuclear deal limited Iran to using only 5,060 first-generation IR-1 centrifuges to enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas.

Salehi also announced that scientists were working on a prototype he called the IR-9, which worked 50-times faster than the IR-1.

Meanwhile, demonstrators gathered in front of the former US Embassy in downtown Tehran yesterday as state television aired footage from other cities across the country making the anniversary.

"Thanks to God, today the revolution's seedlings have evolved into a fruitful and huge tree that its shadow has covered the entire" Middle East, said Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, the commander of the Iranian army.

However, this year's commemoration of the embassy seizure comes as Iran's regional allies in Iraq and Lebanon face widespread protests. The

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Sonagazi OC filmed Nusrat's statement

PBI official tells tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An inspector of Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) yesterday told a Dhaka tribunal that suspended Sonagazi OC Moazzem Hossain had filmed the statement of Feni madrasa student Nusrat Jahan Rafi on his mobile phone.

Mohammad Abdul Badi, inspector of PBI's Digital Forensic Department, in a statement said he had conducted forensic tests on the two seized mobile phones of OC Moazzem and found that the official himself recorded Nusrat's statement on his phone at his office.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Naimul Abrar

WE MOURN

Naimul Abrar, a ninth-grade student of Dhaka Residential Model College, died after being electrocuted at the function being held on the anniversary of *Kishor Alo* on November 01, 2019.

We are deeply grieved by his premature death in the unforeseen accident.

We sympathize with the deep grief of his family, classmates and close friends. Deeply saddened by the incident, we are cancelling the program at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on 8th November 2019, in celebration of the 21st anniversary of the *Prothom Alo*. Seventy-five *Prothom Alo Bondhushava* events which were to be organized across the country are also cancelled.

We seek salvation for the departed soul of Naimul Abrar.

We sincerely apologize to the guests for any inconvenience caused.

প্রথম আলো

বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

২০৩, শহীদ সৈয়দ নজরুল ইসলাম সরণী
পুরাতন ৮৬ বিজয়নগর, ঢাকা-১০০০।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মোহাম্মদ ওমর ফারুক, পিতা- মোহাম্মদ আলী আসাদ্দীন, মাতা- সামছুন নাহার, গ্রাম- নারায়নপুর, পোঃ- নারায়নপুর বাজার, থানা- মতলব (দক্ষিণ) জেলা- চাঁদপুর এমবিবিএস ডিগ্রীর ডুয়া সার্টিফিকেট দাখিল করিয়া প্রতারণার মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে রেজিস্ট্রেশন গ্রহণ করিয়াছেন। (রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A-84733, Date-04.10.2017)। এতদ্বারা সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল হইতে তাহাকে প্রদত্ত রেজিস্ট্রেশন (রেজিস্ট্রেশন নং- A-84733, Date-04.10.2017) বাতিল করা হইয়াছে। এমতাবস্থায় তিনি নিজেকে চিকিৎসক বলিয়া পরিচয় দিতে কিংবা চিকিৎসা কার্যক্রম পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন না। তিনি যদি চিকিৎসা কার্য চালিয়ে যান তাহা হইলে আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থা সমূহকে অবহিত করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

রেজিস্ট্রার (ভারপ্রাপ্ত)
বাংলাদেশ মেডিকেল এন্ড ডেন্টাল কাউন্সিল

S CHINA SEA ROW US accuses Beijing of intimidation

AFP, Bangkok

Washington and Beijing traded tit-for-tat barbs over the disputed South China Sea at a regional summit in Bangkok yesterday, with the US accusing the fellow superpower of intimidating claimants in the resource-rich waterway.

China hit back with a veiled criticism of the US,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

অনলাইনে মালয়েশিয়া প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের ভোটার নিবন্ধন

সুস্থ উদ্বোধন

০৫ নভেম্বর ২০১৯

ভোটার হিসেবে নিবন্ধিত হতে অনলাইনে রেজিস্ট্রেশন করুন

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৪ ধাপে ভোটার নিবন্ধন

০১. নিবন্ধন
অনলাইনে আবেদনকারী কর্তৃক নিবন্ধন ফরম পূরণ

০২. তদন্ত
আবেদনটি সংশ্লিষ্ট উপজেলা নির্বাচন অফিসার কর্তৃক তদন্ত

০৩. বায়োমেট্রিক
সংশ্লিষ্ট দেশে বায়োমেট্রিক তথ্য গ্রহণ

০৪. জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র
সংশ্লিষ্ট দেশে স্মার্ট জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র বিতরণ

অনলাইনে নিবন্ধন ফরম পূরণে QR কোডটি স্ক্যান করুন