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COST OF AIR POLLUTION IN DHAKA

# Every city dweller loses 7.7 years

ASIFUR RAHMAN

Dhaka residents could live 7.7 years longer if air pollution subsidies, found a recent global study.

Air pollution shortens the average Bangladeshi's life expectancy by 5.4 years, said the latest edition of the Energy Policy Institute at Chicago's Air Quality Life Index (AQLI), which is to be released today.

At present, the average life expectancy of Bangladeshis is 72.6 years, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. In 1998, life expectancy was cut short by 2.8 years due to air pollution, while it stood at 5.4 years in 2019.

In each of the 64 districts, the levels of particulate matter -- which are solid and liquid particles like soot, smoke, dust that remain suspended in the air -- were found to be at least three times higher than the World Health Organisation guideline.

Most of the particulate matter, also known as PM 2.5, comes from fossil fuels such as from vehicle engines and power plants, said the study by the University of Chicago institute.

Microscopic particles that are just 3 percent the diameter of a human hair are deadly when they enter the respiratory system along with the oxygen.

The average annual PM 2.5 concentrations in Bangladesh was 77.1 micrograms per cubic metre (mcg/m3) of air, which is seven times the WHO exposure recommendation, according to the World Air Quality Report 2020 that was published in March.

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The way surfaces at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur behaved during the Australia series last month garnered a lot of criticism for its mundaneness. As Bangladesh today begin their five-match T20I series against an inexperienced New Zealand side at the same venue, the pitch, once again, remains a major factor that could impact the game immensely. And hence, it was not surprising to see Bangladesh head coach Russell Domingo and premier all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan inspecting the surface closely.

PHOTO: STAR

# Expectations high as the Tigers take on Kiwis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh are all set to take on New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series today at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur with expectations high after their recent series wins against Zimbabwe away and Australia at home. The match will get underway at 4:00 PM Bangladesh Time.

Bangladesh's motivation will be to keep their winning run going in the shortest format which proved to be a thorn in their side in the past. The New Zealand series provides a last opportunity to gauge their strengths and weaknesses ahead of the World Cup in two months' time, but while there is need for experimentation, the head coach Russell Domingo dictated that the team management wants the players to keep accumulating belief through to the coveted tournament in the UAE.

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# Probe recent accidents at level crossings

Rail minister asks officials after 14 mishaps in a month

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujan has directed the authorities concerned to investigate several recent railway accidents in which trucks hit trains at level crossings, most of which are unauthorised.

He also asked the railway police and officials to take legal action against the truck drivers responsible for the accidents.

The minister gave the directives at a meeting yesterday as the railway saw 14 accidents in August alone. In the last eight months, 82 railway accidents took place and at least one person was killed, said railway sources.

Though the meeting was convened mainly to discuss the railway's services and stopping sale of tickets on the black market, the issues regarding railway accidents dominated it.

"Several railway accidents took place one after another in which trucks hit trains. I have asked the authorities to probe whether there was any conspiracy behind this or those were purely accidental," Sujan told The Daily Star yesterday.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM  
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

# When my soldiers kill, they do it cleanly: Yahya

SEPTEMBER 1, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NEW GOVERNOR IN EAST PAKISTAN

Pakistan President General Yahya Khan appointed Dr Abdul Motaleb Malik as the civil governor of East Pakistan.

Malik had no say in the martial law administration. The two posts were bifurcated. Lt Gen Niazi took over the charge of the Martial Law Administration. As the head of civil administration Dr Malik had hardly anything to do as civil administration did not exist.

BANGLADESH PEOPLE HOPE INDIA WILL DO MORE: TAJUDDIN

The people of Bangladesh hope that India will "do more in support" of their liberation struggle and that the Soviet Union will give them all possible help, Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmed said.

He also appealed to the people of the world to "intensify their actions of solidarity with people of Bangladesh".

Tajuddin made the appeal while replying to questions put to him by the World Peace Council Secretary General Romesh Chandra, who called on him recently. The text of the interview was made available in New Delhi today.

The Bangladesh prime minister welcomed the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty "signed by two great countries, both our valued friends, on whose support we count much in our struggle for

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# LPG prices to go up again from today

UNB, Dhaka

Consumers will have to pay a higher price to buy liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) as the energy regulator yesterday announced its new price in line with the international market price.

As per the new price, consumers will have to pay Tk 1,033 for a cylinder of 12kg LPG from today instead of Tk 993, up by Tk 40.

Last month, the price was raised by Tk 102 for the same quantity of LPG and the prices of other quantities were raised at the same ratio.

The Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) announced the new price of LPG adjusting it with Saudi Contract Price (CP) as the local LPG operators import the bulk petroleum gas from the Middle East.

"As the price of Saudi CP has gone up

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# 'Could've saved him if I were a doctor'

Passengers of fateful flight BG022 remember the day, salute hero pilot



Abdul Karim, Ariful Islam, and Mohammad Nurul Huda on the apron of the airport in Nagpur.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

EZAZ MAHMUD

"If any doctor was on board the flight or if I were a doctor, the early demise of Capt Nawshad Ataul Quayyum could have been prevented," said Bangladeshi expatriate Abdul Karim, who was on Biman's Muscat-Dhaka flight that had to make an emergency landing in India's Nagpur on August 28 after its pilot in command Capt Nawshad suffered a heart attack.

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# CUSTODY BATTLE Eriko, Imran, kids to stay together

HC issues order after hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the authorities concerned to immediately shift the two Japanese children of Bangladeshi-born US citizen Imran Sharif and Japanese national Eriko Nakano to a residence in the capital's Gulshan from the victim support centre in order to ensure their welfare and a family environment for them.

The children -- Nakano

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 4:30 12:45 4:45 6:23 7:45  
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

# SI arrested for rape

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector of Police was arrested after a woman filed a rape case against him with Gulshan Police Station yesterday morning.

The arrestee is Khairul Alam, an SI of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Faruk Hossain, deputy commissioner (Media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said Khairul was arrested yesterday after the girl filed a case against him under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Police produced him before a Dhaka court seeking five-day remand but the court sent him to jail, rejecting the prayer.

The court, however, allowed police to interrogate him for a day at the jail gate, court sources said.

According to the case statement, the SI met the 20-year-old woman when she visited the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station to file a complaint a month ago.

On Monday, the SI met the girl in Panthapath area

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A man moving his household items by a boat in the face of erosion on the Jamuna. Flood has worsened in at least six districts and erosion caused by major rivers has added to the woes of people living on the banks. The photo was taken in Tangail's Kalihati upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

# N'GANJ FACTORY FIRE It's an act of 'systematic killing'

Says Citizen Probe Committee report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of workers at Hashem Foods factory in Narayanganj was an act of systematic killing, stated a report of the Citizen Probe Committee.

"The devastating incident took place due to indifference, negligence and greed of the owner. That's why we're not terming it an accident, but rather a systematic killing," the report read.

On July 8, a deadly fire razed the factory of Hashem Foods Limited in Ruppaganj of Narayanganj, killing at least 52 workers and staffers of the factory.

However, the probe committee said in their investigation that they found 54 people died in the fire incident.

The summary of the 100-page probe report on the fire incident at Hashem Foods factory and workers' deaths was shared yesterday at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Nineteen eminent citizens prepared the probe in 30 days and it is based on spot visits, interviews and document analysis.

Barrister Jyotirmoy Barua, convener of the 19-member probe committee, read out the report.

The committee demanded punishment of the responsible officials of the government authorities for their negligence in ensuring fire safety at the factory.

There were no emergency staircases in the building, yet it

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