

Dhaka air still 'unhealthy'

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka's air quality continues to be "unhealthy".

The capital, however, slipped to the fourth position in the latest list of world cities with the worst air quality.

Yesterday, the capital's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 189 at 9:04am.

Bosnia Herzegovina's Sarajevo, Croatia's Zagreb and Pakistan's Lahore occupied the first three spots, with AQI scores of 268, 209 and 202, respectively.

An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy", particularly for sensitive groups.

Similarly, an AQI between 201 and 300 is said to be "poor", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous", posing serious health risks to residents.

AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, is used by government agencies to inform people how clean or polluted the air of a certain city is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for them. In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants – Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO2, CO, SO2 and Ozone.

Dhaka has long been grappling with

air pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy during winter and improves during monsoon.

A report by the Department of Environment and the World Bank in March 2019 pointed out that the three main sources of air pollution in Dhaka are brick kilns, fumes from vehicles and dust from construction sites.

With the advent of winter, the city's air quality starts deteriorating sharply due to the massive discharge of pollutant particles from construction work, rundown roads, brick kilns and other sources.

Air pollution consistently ranks among the top risk factors for death and disability worldwide. Breathing polluted air has long been recognised as increasing a person's chances of developing heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases, lung infections and cancer, according to several studies.

As per the World Health Organization, air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.



Every winter brings with it dusty streets and alleys in Dhaka. With so much construction going on, a scene like this is not surprising. This photo was taken recently from near Jatiya Press Club.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Kazirhaat loses another ferry Long gridlock, truckers' misery continue

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Barely a month after losing its two big ferries and their pontoon, Kazirhaat ferry ghat -- the busiest ferry port for loaded trucks in the northern region -- has now lost one of its two smaller ferries.

This means over 300 vehicles plying on the Kazirhaat-Aricha route is now stranded in the area, without adequate food, accommodation or sanitation facilities for the truckers.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mahabubur Rahman, manager of the ghat, the ghat had two small ferries, "Kadam" and "Camelia", for the last one month.

Before this, the ghat had two more larger Ro Ro ferries plying the route, he said.

But on Monday, Camelia had to be taken to the dock yard due to technical fault, leaving only Kadam to carry vehicles on the route for the last five days.

"Kadam can only carry 25 to 30 trucks and 20 to 25 small vehicles like cars and motorbikes at a time. As a result, more than 300 vehicles remain stranded



PHOTO: STAR

on both sides of the ghat," Mahabub said.

Contacted, Md Khaled Newaz, deputy general manager of Aricha ghat, said the crisis won't be resolved any time soon due to a shortage of ferries.

Meanwhile, truckers said they're stuck at the ghat under immensely difficult conditions. As the ghat area doesn't have adequate food and accommodation, they have to buy food from afar and spend the nights inside their trucks. They're also suffering due to the lack of toilet facilities.

Half a decade

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leaving two cut-points for water to enter and recede from. When the water recedes during low tide, it takes the sediment deposited on the riverbed in a process of natural excavation.

Ignoring this approach, WDB in Jashore has been trying to solve the longstanding problem by pumping out stagnant water using 20 pumps. The project began since the beginning of 2021 at a cost of Tk 2.5 crore.

However, Md Tauhidul Islam, executive engineer of Jashore WDB, said the project is not successful in its aim yet, as the capacity of the pumps are as low as five cusec water.

He said once they are able to install high capacity pumps, each of which could pump out around 40 cusec

water, the stagnant water will recede, bringing relief to the area's people. The Tk 45.6 crore proposed project is currently at the planning ministry for approval, he added.

However, the sangram committee rejected the water pump project, terming it impractical.

Protesting it, along with putting forward five more demands, the committee held a sit-in at Jashore deputy commissioner's office for five days till Thursday.

Iqbal Kabir Zahid, adviser of the committee, said tougher movements will be waged if their six-point demand is not met. The demands include tidal river management before the full moon, cancellation of the proposed water pumping project, Amdanga canal excavation and more.

He said once they are able to install high capacity pumps, each of which could pump out around 40 cusec

Woman found dead in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Savar

Police recovered the body of a woman, aged around 21, at a house in Kathgora area of Ashulia in Savar yesterday.

The deceased Bishnu Akhter, wife of Asadul Islam, hailed from Taljanga village of Kishorganj district, said Tanim Hasan, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station.

Bishnu and her husband worked at a readymade garment factory in Ashulia and used to stay at a rented house in Kathgora area, said police.

On information, police recovered the body in the afternoon and sent it to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy, the SI said.

The deceased's husband is on the run since the incident, he added.

The body bore multiple injury marks, the SI said, adding that they have started investigation into the matter.

Govt to create mangrove forest on 17,000 hectares of land

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken a plan to create mangrove forests on 17,000 hectares of land during 2021-22 to 2023-24 fiscal, aiming to protect and preserve forestry and wildlife in coastal areas, according to an official document.

Besides, an updated version of the Climate Fiscal Framework will be published in line with Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 and SDGs.

The Bangladesh Climate Fiscal Framework 2020 has been developed as an updated version of the Climate Fiscal Framework 2014 by the Finance Division, with support from its Inclusive Budgeting and Financing for Climate Resilience Project.

The project is financed by the government and United Nations Development Programme.

The Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 is a long-term, integrated, and holistic vision of water and land management throughout Bangladesh. Initiatives will be taken to implement projects or programmes for adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change, reduction of environment pollution, improvement of biodiversity and enhancement of mangrove forest in coastal areas.

Manik Saha's death anniv observed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Khulna

The 18th death anniversary of journalist Manik Saha, who was killed in a bomb attack on January 15, 2004 at Chhoto Mirzapur near Khulna Press Club, was observed yesterday.

The Press Club authorities and his family placed wreaths at the monument built at the press club in memory of the slain journalists. Later, they arranged a discussion on his life and works.

Manik, a freedom fighter, received Ekushey Padak in 2009. He worked for the Daily Sangbad, The New Age, Ekushey Television, and BBC Bangla. In 2016, a speedy tribunal in Khulna sentenced nine people to life imprisonment for killing the journalist.

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Supply, installation, testing, commissioning and balancing of 1 (one) passenger elevator at 5-storied building No. 3 of BSL Office Complex	From 16/01/2022 to 31/01/2022	07/02/2022

Tenders will be received on 07/02/2022 up to 12:00 noon and opened at 12:30 PM on same day. The details of this Tender Notice may be seen at the www.bsl.gov.bd website. The Tender Document will be available at the office of the undersigned located at 4th floor, Building No. 3, BSL office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000.

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(Md. Abdul Quaiyum)
Managing Director (Additional Secretary)

তাৰিখ: ১২ জানুয়াৰি ২০২২খঁ

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানি ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়

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জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সংরক্ষণ বিধিমালা-২০১৬ এবং জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা প্রধানমন্ত্রণালা-২০১৮ অনুযায়ী বিদ্যুৎ ও জ্বালানির বৃহৎ ব্যবহারকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহে জ্বালানি দক্ষতা ও সামৰণী ব্যবহার চিহ্নিত এবং নিশ্চিত করতে প্রেস দেশে পর্যাপ্ত সংখ্যক জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক তৈরীর লক্ষ্যে ২য় জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষক সনদ পরীক্ষা আয়োজন করতে যাচ্ছে। উক্ত পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণে আঘাতী যথাযথ যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীদের আগমনী ২৭ জানুয়ারি ২০২২খঁ তারিখের মধ্যে অনলাইনে সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

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স্ব।

মোঃ আব্দুলাহ আল মামুন

সহকারী পরিচালক (জ্বালানি নিরীক্ষা ও এক্সিডেন্স)

It took 42

FROM PAGE 3
sub-judge court, seeking permanent ban on the notice, because they wished to buy the land.

Thirteen years later, the case was shifted to the Money Lending Court, before it was moved back to the previous court in 2000.

The court dismissed the case in 2000, but the occupiers then made an appeal to the HC, which accepted it, but the occupiers sent the title suit to a lower court for a fresh hearing on September 17, 2013. After another eight years, they again urged for a temporary ban on BSCIC's notice on March 15 last year. The court issued a show-cause notice and dismissed the occupiers' application, leading to BSCIC getting it back.

Contacted, the association's general secretary Kamrul Hossain admitted that they took the land as lease from BSCIC but continued business defying the notice.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

উপজেলা স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার পরিকল্পনা কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

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তাৰিখ: ১৩/০১/২০২২খঁ

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