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GLOBAL BLACK CARBON MENACE

SOURCES

Black carbon is one of many particles and gases that are emitted when diesel, coal and other biomass fuels are burned

Household energy 51%	Fossil fuel operations 3%
Industrial production 5%	Large-scale combustion 2%
Agriculture 8%	



Transport **26%**



Waste **5%**

IMPACTS

HEALTH

Deaths from Heart disease 29%
Stroke 24%
Lung disease 25%
Lung cancer 43%

CLIMATE

Absorbs sunlight and converts it to heat
Prevent clouds from being formed
Alters regional weather patterns and rainfall

SNOW & ICE

Accelerates the melting of snow and ice
AGRICULTURE & ECOSYSTEM
Reduces sunlight
Affects plant health and productivity

Deadly yet taken lightly

No monitoring of key air pollutant called black carbon despite its disastrous impacts on human health and environment

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

People in Bangladesh every day inhale an alarming amount of black carbon, a particle not only harmful for human health but also responsible for global warming.

But it is hardly monitored in the country though there is a national action plan in place since 2018.

Result of incomplete combustion of fossil fuel and biomass, black carbon has the unique property of being able to absorb solar radiation and release it as heat.

It has many damaging

consequences upon inhalation, including increased rates of cancer, scarring of the lung tissue and heart damage as it can enter the blood stream via the lungs.

There is no permissible level for black carbon in the air. In Dhaka, its amount is 10 to 15 microgram per cubic metre, compared to 0.1 to 0.5 microgram per cubic metre in cities of developed countries, Dhaka University Professor Abdus Salam, an air pollution researcher, told The Daily Star recently.

"We find black carbon 8-12 microgram per cubic metre in the

country's air round the year. In winter, it reaches up to 20-25 microgram per cubic metre. It is very alarming for both human health and the environment," he added.

"If we can control the black carbon emission, we can reduce the air pollution and also at the same time global warming."

Prof Salam said they found burning of biomass – wood, dried leaves, garbage and agricultural wastes – responsible for 40-42 percent of black carbon emission in Bangladesh. Transportation is responsible for 45

Bangladesh air worst in the world, again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The air quality of Bangladesh remained the worst in the world for four years in a row, said a global report.

Dhaka was the second most polluted capital in the world following New Delhi, according to The 2021 World Air Quality Report published yesterday by IQAir, a Swiss air quality technology company that specialises in protection against airborne pollutants and developing air quality monitoring.

It found that particulate matter in Bangladesh was 15 times the limit set by the World Health Organization.

The report summarises the main causes of pollution

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



An old man falls to the ground amid a mad dash of people out to buy daily essentials at lower prices from a TCB truck in the capital's Rampura. With prices of commodities rising sharply, the crowds behind these trucks have kept swelling over the past month or so. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

TCB COMMODITIES

Rab detains dealer for hoarding

STAFF CORRESPONDENTS, Chattogram

The Rapid Action Battalion yesterday detained a dealer for hoarding commodities of the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh when many had to return empty-handed from TCB sales points in Chattogram.

The dealer, named Md Rashed, was among three detained from a warehouse with 2,000 litres of soybean oil, 500kg of lentil and 500kg of sugar at the port city's Cement Crossing. The warehouse belonged to Rashed.

On a tip-off, a team of Rab conducted a raid at the warehouse in the early hours of the morning, said MA Yusuf, commander of Rab 7.

The commodities were meant for open market sales but they were being hoarded to sell at a higher price during Ramadan, he said.

Meanwhile, many people with family cards had to return empty-handed from

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Don't go for EVM without consensus

Eminent citizens urge EC at talks

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission should refrain from using electronic voting machines in polls unless there is consensus regarding the use of the technology, eminent citizens said yesterday.

While attending a dialogue with the Election Commission at the EC conference room, invitees also said the last two national elections have shown that it is tough for an election held under a political government to be acceptable to all.

The EC's initiative to hold dialogues with various groups including politicians for recommendations on how to hold free and fair elections got an underwhelming response on the second round of talks yesterday as 19 out of 39 invitees joined the dialogue.

"The use of EVMs is contentious now and it is better to keep a distance from that unless there is national consensus on it," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

He said the experience of the 2014 and 2018 national elections shows that proper implementation of power given to the EC in line with constitution and laws depends on the election-time government.

"It will limit your scope to work properly if this structural obstacle is not addressed.

"If you cannot work properly or feel that you are facing obstacles, you should have the courage to resign," he said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



2nd HSBC Business Excellence Awards

Celebrating 25 years of progress in Bangladesh



এ অর্জনে আমরা গর্বিত

দেশের আর্থ-সামাজিক প্রবৃদ্ধিতে উদ্ভাবন ও কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টির অবদানে সিটি গ্রুপ 'এইচ এস বি সি বিজনেস এক্সিলেন্স এওয়ার্ড' এ সম্মানিত হয়েছে, যা আমাদের যাত্রায় যোগ করেছে অর্জনের এক নতুন মাইলফলক। এ অর্জনে আমাদের সকল ভোক্তা ও শ্রদানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা।

