



P5 Mominchhara tea workers suffer for authorities' inaction



P6 Turkey officially changes name at UN to 'Turkiye'



P6 Global plastic use and waste to triple by 2060



P10 Swiatek faces Gauff in French Open final

INVISIBLE KILLER in our homes

Ignored, indoor air pollution continues to wreak havoc on human health

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

You are vulnerable to toxic air even when you stay home.

The poor outdoor air quality in Bangladesh often makes global headlines but the state of indoor air largely goes unreported in the absence of government monitoring.

The WHO says 113,202 people die in the country annually just because of indoor air pollution.

Experts observe most of our exposure to air pollution actually happens indoors. According to the Environmental Protection Agency of the US, the level of indoor air pollutants can be two to five times higher than that outdoors.

A recent study on "In-kitchen aerosol exposure in twelve cities across the globe", a collaborative research led by the University of Surrey in the UK, found Dhaka's indoor air quality worst.

The average PM 2.5 concentration in the Bangladesh capital was recorded at 186 micrograms per cubic metre while the Indian city of Chennai ranked second-worst with 16 micrograms per cubic metre of average PM 2.5 concentration.

Particulate matter (PM) 2.5 is a lung-damaging tiny particle. According to WHO, the safe limit of PM 2.5 is 15 micrograms per cubic metre for outdoor air. However, a standard for indoors is yet to be in place.

In New Delhi's air, the level of PM 2.5 indoors has been found "substantially higher" than that recorded by the nearest outdoor government monitors, read a recent BBC report.

Dhaka frequently competes with the Indian capital for the top position of the world's most air polluted city.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

#OnlyOneEarth

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY
JUNE 5



INDOOR AIR POLLUTION SOURCES

- Cooking
- Smoking
- Household cleaning products
- Central heating or cooling system
- Air fresheners



"The general perception is that indoor is safe but we found indoor air pollution dangerous for human health as our kitchens in urban settings are very small with a poor ventilation system."

PROF ABDUS SALAM
CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT AT
DHAKA UNIVERSITY



Sand-filling of a wetland goes on unabated in Khilgaon's Nagdarpar area of the capital. Land grabbers put up company signs on water bodies and set up structures on the filled-up area to build settlements. This aggravates the perennial waterlogging problem in the city. The photo was taken on Thursday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GOLD SMUGGLING

Rackets exploit legal channel

Lion's share of gold brought under Baggage Rules being smuggled out

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Over 30 tonnes of gold legally brought to the country by travellers last year were smuggled to India, according to an estimate by customs and CID officers.

This is in addition to gold bullions that reach the neighbouring country after being smuggled into Bangladesh, they added. Travellers legally brought around 60 tonnes of gold bullion and ornaments last year under the Baggage Rules-2016, which allows each individual to carry two gold bars, weighing 234 grams or 20.07 bhoori, paying Tk 40,000 in customs duty.

But the local demand for the

precious metal ranges between 20 and 26 tonnes and a large part of it is recycled. The rest was smuggled to India, which has one of the world's largest markets of gold, according to industry insiders and customs officers.

Recent recoveries of gold bullions suggest an increase in gold smuggling. Customs intelligence department seized 174kg of smuggled gold in the last fiscal year. The same agency recovered over 201kg in the first 10 months of this fiscal.

The smuggling is done with the help of employees of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh and different airlines, especially Biman,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



GOLD SMUGGLING

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PADMA BRIDGE

Grand opening on the cards

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Never before has a celebration of such mammoth proportions been planned in the country.

The inauguration of the Padma Bridge on June 25 will be celebrated in a manner that will truly let the general public be a part of the achievement – Bangladesh's first independently funded mega project.

Every one of the country's 4,000-plus unions will light up the night sky with fireworks and fire lanterns. In the daytime, clouds of helium balloons will float across the country.

After the official inauguration of the 6.15-kilometre bridge at the Mawa end, the ruling Awami League is all

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



PADMA BRIDGE
inauguration
21 DAYS
TO GO

KILLINGS OF AL LEADER, STUDENT

Key suspect arrested in Oman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sumon Sikdar Musa, a key suspect in the killings of Motijheel Awami League leader Jahidul Islam Tipu and college student Samia Afnan Jamal Prity, has been arrested in Oman, said police.

The National Central Bureau (NCB) at the Police Headquarters, Interpol's correspondence desk in Dhaka, is trying to bring him back.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Mohiul Islam, assistant inspector general at NCB, said, "We have been seeking Interpol's help in arresting Musa after his name surfaced in the investigation of Tipu murder case. Based on this,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Musa



This photo taken on Thursday shows bombed-out buildings in Mariupol, Ukraine, as Russia's assault on its neighbour entered 100th day.

PHOTO: AFP

Ukraine war 'will have no winner'

UN says on 100th day of fight; Zelensky vows victory

AGENCIES

The United Nations said yesterday there would be no victor from Russia's invasion of Ukraine as the conflict entered its 100th day and Moscow's forces pressed deeper into the eastern Donbas region.

"This war has and will have no winner. Rather, we have witnessed for 100 days what is lost: lives, homes, jobs and prospects," Amin Awad, Assistant Secretary-General and United Nations Crisis Coordinator for Ukraine, said in a statement.

The milestone came as Kyiv announced Moscow was now in control of a fifth of Ukrainian territory, including Crimea and parts of Donbas seized in 2014.

Russia's invasion, which began on February 24, saw Moscow's troops first attempt a blitz on Kyiv before relinquishing control of area around the capital and Ukraine's second city Kharkiv in the north east.

The have made steady gain in the south and east, however.

"This war has taken an unacceptable toll on people and engulfed virtually all aspects of civilian life," Awad said.

Nearly seven million people have fled Ukraine after the war began, creating Europe's worst refugee crisis since the end of World War Two. Fighting continues unabated and there is no sign of a ceasefire.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday his country's military would fend off the Russian invasion, in a video marking 100 days of Moscow's all-out assault on

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3