

Dhaka air 2nd most polluted in the world

UNB, Dhaka

Air pollution still remains one of the top-most challenges for Bangladesh. Dhaka has been ranked as the second most polluted city in the world.

Dhaka's air quality index (AQI) was recorded at 190 at 9:00am yesterday.

India's capital Delhi and Kuwait's capital Kuwait City occupied the first and third spots, with AQI scores of 257 and 158. An AQI between 101 and 200 is considered "unhealthy".

An AQI between 201 and 300 is said to be "poor", while a reading of 301 to 400 is considered "hazardous". AQI, an index for reporting daily air quality, is used by government agencies to inform people how clean or polluted air of a certain city is, and what associated health effects might be a concern for them.



Due to the ruling party's rallies all across the capital yesterday, commuters were stuck in gridlock at different points of the city. The traffic situation frustrated both commuters and transport workers, like this rickshaw-puller and his passenger. These two were left exhausted, stuck in the traffic for a long time amid the scorching heat. The photo was taken from Banglamotor.

PHOTO: SHEIKH ENAMUL HAQ

‘It’s now more relevant than ever’ Speakers call for extending UN women, peace and security resolution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An extension of the deadline to implement the National Action Plan on the United Nations' women, peace and security resolution is urgent due to the hindrance caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, speakers at a discussion said yesterday.

As the pandemic has discovered many new ways women can be vulnerable, the action plan is now more relevant than ever, they added.

“The implementation of policies related to women has always been delayed. This particular plan is more important now, as derogatory comments and behaviour against women are on the rise.”

ROKEYA KABIR
Executive Director of BNPS

They were speaking at a webinar organised by Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha (BNPS), supported by UN Women, with The Daily Star as the media partner.

In November 2019, the government adopted the National Action Plan, led by the ministry of foreign affairs with 11 relevant ministries, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and BNPS as stakeholders.

Presiding over the discussion, Rokeya Kabir, executive director of BNPS, said, "The implementation of policies related to women has always been delayed. This particular plan is more important now, as derogatory

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‘People need to know they exist’

Speakers tell launch event of ‘Indigenous in the Edge’; urge for documentation to preserve indigenous culture



Speakers at the book launching event yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is an urgent need to document the lives and cultural practices of some of the smallest indigenous communities on the verge of disappearing.

Speakers said this at a book launch event, organised by Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the capital's The Daily

Star Centre yesterday.

The book, "Indigenous in the Edge", brought out by MJF, documents the lives and cultural practices of 17 indigenous communities.

The communities are Malo, Koch, Hajong, Hodi, Kora, Santal, Munda, Mahato, Mahali, Banai, Barman, Dalu, Garo, Khasi, Oraon, Patro, and Ganju.

PHOTO: STAR

Even among the indigenous communities, the attention received by the groups living in the plain lands is disproportionately less. Many small communities are getting homogenised with larger indigenous groups, and thus their culture is getting erased, said speakers.

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DBC News producer found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a producer of private TV channel DBC News from Hatirjheel lake in Dhaka yesterday morning. The deceased was identified as Abdul Bari (27), hailing from Sirajganj.

On information from some homeless children, police recovered the body around 7:00am from Hatirjheel lake near Police Plaza.

The body bore stab marks in the chest and throat, said Abul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station.

"Police are investigating the matter, analysing CCTV footage of nearby areas," the OC said.

He said they recovered a blood stained knife, the victim's wallet and mobile from the spot.



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This old tree standing right opposite the residence of Dhaka University's vice-chancellor had its days numbered right after the authorities labelled it as "risky". It was being felled yesterday at the time of taking this photo. The university authority feared that it could collapse due to its old age and pose risks of serious accidents. However, many students claimed that the tree is not as risky as the authority portrays, and it is being felled due to commercial benefits.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MoU signed with Hungary on nuclear energy edu

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has signed two MoUs with Hungary – one on Cooperation in the Field of Training and Education of Atomic Industry on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and the other on the Diplomatic Exchange Program.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó signed the deals in Budapest on Tuesday and discussed future cooperation paths in the field of nuclear energy as both Bangladesh and Hungary are availing the same technology for respective new nuclear power plants.

They also agreed to deepen relations on economy, health, climate change, water and waste-water management, trade and investment including post-graduation facilities, nuclear energy, and post-Covid recovery.

They also agreed to cooperate in clean and renewable energy sectors and on training and education of nuclear energy professionals.

The ministers have

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OLD BURIGANGA CHANNEL Excavation work starts this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday said they will start the re-excavation work of the Old Buriganga channel by this month.

The DSCC mayor said this while talking to journalists during a visit to the sluice gate in Companighat.

"The process to complete the tender of the excavation project is in its final stage and we are hoping that we will be able to inaugurate the work by this month," he said.

"We will recover the channel properly by freeing it from all kinds of encroachments after the demarcation of its boundary," he said.

Responding to a query, the DSCC mayor said they have recovered around 6 acres of land from encroachers.

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Put an end to lead pollution Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Policymakers, development partners and other stakeholders yesterday urged authorities to join hands to put an end to lead pollution, to protect every child's potential to flourish.

They made the call at a seminar titled "Together We Can End Lead Pollution, Protect Every Child's Potential" organised by Pure Earth Bangladesh – with support from Department of Environment (DoE), Directorate General of Health Services and Unicef – at the auditorium of DoE in the capital.

The seminar came up with some grim data on how lead is wreaking havoc on people's health.

Thirty-six million Bangladeshi children are lead poisoned, and millions are at risk. Lead annually causes 38,000 deaths in Bangladesh.

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Impose ‘fat tax’ on junk food Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should impose a "fat tax" on high-calorie food and beverage, as one in every three people in the country has been suffering from fatty liver disease due to consumption of such unhealthy foods, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Urging the government to take immediate steps, they warned that about 10 million of those suffering from fatty liver disease are at risk of developing cirrhosis or liver cancer.

Fatty liver disease is a common condition caused by having too much fat in the liver. It is associated with an increased risk of serious health problems, such as diabetes, high blood pressure and kidney disease, according to experts.

Besides, nutritional labels on menus of fast-

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PRAYER
TIMING
JUNE 9

Fazr

Zohr

Asr

Maghrib

Esha

AZAN 4-05

12-45

5-00

6-45

8-15

JAMAAT 4-40

1-15

5-15

6-50

8-45

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