

Dhaka ranks 4th among 20 most UNSUSTAINABLE CITIES

MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Dhaka has been ranked fourth amongst the 20 most unsustainable megacities in the world, as the capital is reeling from rapid depletion of greenery, water scarcity and exploding population, says a global report.

The third edition of the report, titled "Ecological Threat Report (ETR)" and released yesterday, came up with the ranking. It found that South Asia is home to eight of the world's 20 most unsustainable megacities, with half of them in India alone.

Dhaka is preceded by Kinshasa, Nairobi and Lagos, as per the report, while the rest of the cities include Baghdad, Lahore, Kolkata and Delhi.

The report projected high population growth, over 50 percent, combined with other factors -- including high levels of air pollution, poor sanitation, high homicide rates and substantial ecological threats -- in the cities.

Dhaka, Lahore, Kolkata, Delhi, Karachi, Mumbai, Chennai, and Hyderabad are eight of the 20 cities facing the highest population growth and are the most vulnerable to ecological threats, it said.

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PHOTO: STAR

All coaching centres across the country will remain closed from November 3 to December 14 as the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and equivalent examinations will begin on November 6.

The written examinations will end on December 13 while the practical examinations will begin on December 15 and end on December 22.

The coaching centres will remain shut in an effort to conduct the examinations smoothly, Education Minister Dipu Moni said at a press briefing at the secretariat yesterday.

Replies to a question, the minister said the Deputy Commissioners and police supers concerned will ensure the closure of the coaching centres

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One fraudster, 60 cases, 36 warrants
Rab arrests man who raked in crores through fake promises of profit

MUNTAKIM SAAD



To increase the number of customers, they used to attract people by announcing special packages and incentives. In 2017, the number of customers exceeded 7,000. Customers would deposit Tk 10,000 to Tk 13 lakh. In 2017, the amount of savings and deposits of the company stood at around Tk 50 to Tk 70 crore.

He was a local correspondent for a national newspaper, in addition to working for a local newspaper during his student days. In 2003, the man opened an organisation called "Janata Multipurpose Cooperative Society" at his area in Kushtia.

Ten years later, Khandaker Abul Kalam Azad changed the organisation's name to "Janata Sanchay o Rindan Samabay Samity Limited" and started operations on a large scale, targeting people from lower-income backgrounds in various upazilas of Kushtia, Khulna, Magura, Jhenidah, Pabna, Sirajganj and Rajshahi.

At one point in 2017, Azad closed the company, after embezzling about Tk 70 crore from customers, and went into hiding.

With the money, he bought 15 bighas of land, a six-storey building and a brick-kiln in Kushtia, and 11 bighas of land in Rajshahi. Besides, he bought several luxury flats and cars in Dhaka's Uttara.

At least 60 cases have been filed against him over fraudulence. Warrants have been issued under 36 cases with different police stations.

Rab disclosed this information yesterday, after claiming to have finally arrested Azad, who had been on the run for almost five years, on Tuesday night from a hotel in the capital.

At the law enforcement agency's media centre, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Khandaker Al Moin said Azad had appointed himself as the company's president, while his two brothers and their wives were on the board of directors.

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DU to hold research fair for first time

DU CORRESPONDENT

A two day "Research and Publication Fair" will be held on October 22-23 at the central playground of Dhaka University, first of its kind in the institution's history.

New innovation and research will be displayed at the fair, DU authority said in a press conference yesterday.

The event will be arranged for encouraging

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-50 12-45 4-00 5-36 7-15
JAMAAT 5-25 1-15 4-15 5-39 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Poverty pushed 11-year-old Rabiul to take up the risky profession of a bus conductor. Struggling to make ends meet, he had to make a living for himself as his rickshaw-puller father was unable to support the family with his income. To employ a child in such hazardous professions is illegal to begin with. On top of that, Rabiul working for a state-owned bus service questions the efforts of the government to stop child labour. This photo was taken in Dhaka's Asad Gate area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

HSC exams to start Nov 6
Coaching centres to remain closed from Nov 3 to Dec 14, says Dipu Moni

UNB, Dhaka

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ILLEGAL STRUCTURES AT BEACH
HC blasts Cox's Bazar DC for noncompliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday cautioned and blasted Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner Mamunur Rashid for not evicting illegal structures from the sea beach area though it has directed for doing so 11 years ago.

"We go through newspapers and watch televisions to know what you do for implementing this court's directives over evicting the illegal structures from Cox's Bazar sea beach. But we see that your performance is not only zero, but also negative in protecting the beauties of Cox's Bazar as per the court orders.

You must comply with the order of this court, otherwise your career will be damaged. If you have any personal interest, then it's a different matter," the HC bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil told DC Mamunur Rashid during hearing a contempt of court petition.

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DSA an additional threat to journos
Says Canadian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Canadian High Commissioner Lilly Nicholls yesterday said the Digital Security Act as an additional threat to journalists in Bangladesh. She also said the media plays a vital role to ensure democracy and transparency in a country.

"Media freedom is deteriorating all around the world. Media also plays a key role to hear from different sections of the people and represents the voice of the unheard," said the Canadian envoy while speaking at a dialogue on safety of women journalists.

Discussants also included Barrister Sara Hossain, President of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendro Nasimun Ara Huq Minu and Coordinator of Women Journalists Network Bangladesh Angur Nahar Monty.

Faruq Faisal, regional director for ARTICLE 19 South Asia, moderated the dialogue session.

Rumki Farhana, senior programme officer of ARTICLE 19, presented the keynote paper, pointing out the objectives and scope of these upcoming series of dialogues.

Journalists, civil society organisations, diplomats, academia, researchers and media actors attended the inaugural session.

'Little Bangladesh' in New York

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A section of McDonald Avenue in Kensington of New York has been officially co-named "Little Bangladesh" to recognise the contributions of Bangladeshi community to the neighborhood.

Council member Shahana Hanif, leaders from the local Bangladeshi community, city comptroller Brad Lander, and assembly member Robert Carroll unveiled the new street sign at the corner of Church Avenue on Oct 16, reports Brooklyn Paper, a local newspaper.



PHOTO: COLLECTED