

CURBING DEADLY AIR POLLUTION

4 nations draw up roadmap

Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal join hands in maiden transboundary move

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Four South Asian countries – Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan – have agreed to drastically bring down the annual average of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 in the countries' air to 35 microgrammes per cubic metre by 2030.

The reduction would mean better air quality and reduced

health burden, which will help the countries reach the World Health Organization's interim target.

For countries struggling with severe air pollution, the WHO set an interim target of 35 mcg/cubic metre of PM 2.5.

Facilitated by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the World Bank, government

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PROJECTED PREMATURE DEATHS FROM EXPOSURE TO FINE PARTICULATE MATTER, 2030

| REGION | BASELINE DEATHS | DEATHS DUE TO AMBIENT PM2.5 (%) | DEATHS DUE TO HOUSEHOLD PM2.5 (%) |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bangladesh | 186,000 | 63 | 37 |
| Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP), India | 767,000 | 69 | 31 |
| Non-IGP, India | 876,000 | 67 | 33 |
| Nepal | 37,000 | 32 | 68 |
| Pakistan | 231,000 | 60 | 40 |
| Sri Lanka | 19,000 | 32 | 68 |

SOURCE: WB REPORT

DHAKA'S PM2.5 SOURCES

- Natural sources 5%
- From Dhaka city itself 10%
- From Dhaka division 25%
- From other divisions 35%
- From other country (India) 25%



TRANSBOUNDARY POLLUTION

30% of air pollution in Dhaka, Ctg and Khulna originated in India: World Bank



BASELINE DEATHS IN 2030 DUE TO AMBIENT AND HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION

| SUB-REGION | 2030 BASELINE DEATHS DUE TO AMBIENT AIR POLLUTION | 2030 BASELINE DEATHS DUE TO HOUSEHOLD AIR POLLUTION |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Dhaka | 16,183 | 408 |
| Rest of country | 100,471 | 69,074 |
| Delhi | 34,162 | 247 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 207,478 | 99,391 |
| West Bengal | 101,366 | 36,974 |
| Karachi | 17,459 | 1,680 |



With much love and respect for the fallen heroes of the Liberation War, Jubayer places a red rose at the National Martyrs' Memorial in Savar on the Victory Day. The physically challenged boy, under the banner of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), arrived at the memorial in a wheelchair to pay his homage. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

V DAY CELEBRATED

Nation recalls triumph, tears

UNB, Dhaka

The country yesterday celebrated the 52nd Victory Day yesterday, the most joyous day when the nation emerged victorious after a nine-month war in 1971 at the cost of the supreme sacrifice of three million martyrs and the honour of nearly half a million mothers and sisters.

President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paid homage at the National Memorial in Savar to honour the Liberation War martyrs.

The head of the state placed a wreath at the altar of the National Memorial at about 6:30am followed by the prime minister.

In a show of profound respect for the memories of the martyrs, they stood silently for a while after laying the wreaths.

A smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force presented the state salute on the occasion as the bugles played the last post.

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'71 COLLABORATORS

Govt needs 6 more months to publish list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It may take another six months to publish the full list of war-time collaborators – the Razakar and Al-Badar members – as the responsible sub-committee is yet to complete the task.

"We're cautious to ensure there are no mistakes," said Kazi Firoz Rashid, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, who is one of the members of the sub-committee formed to prepare a list of Razakars and Al-Badar.

Three days after its publication on December

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DESERT FEST

Exciting, but ultimately meaningless

SHABAB CHOWDHURY

The stage is set. The greatest show on earth is nearing its end and the protagonists are all but ready for the climax as Lionel Messi prepares for his last chance at footballing immortality with Argentina against a formidable France, who have set loose a monster in Qatar in the form of superstar Kylian Mbappe.

While all the excitement and the hype is understandably focused on the grand finale, a second stage is being prepared at the Khalifa International Stadium where, on the eve of the final, losing semifinalists

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Onus on Argentina, France to keep the thrill alive

ATIQUE ANAM, from Doha

FIFA president Gianni Infantino, on Friday, hailed the Qatar World Cup as the best one ever. The supremo of world football's governing body has been so impressed by the thrill and the unpredictable nature of the tournament this year that he hinted that the three-team group format of the 48-team 2026 World Cup, scheduled to be held across the USA, Mexico and Canada, could be revisited.

FIFA had previously indicated that the 2026 finals would see countries divided into 16 groups of three during the first round.

"The groups of four have been absolutely incredible until the last minute of the last match," Infantino told a press conference in Doha.

"We have to revisit or at least re-discuss the format, whether it's 16 groups of three or 12 groups of four. This is something that will be on the agenda in the next few weeks," he added.

Indeed, it has been a tournament to remember – one that saw a number of

upsets and fantastic performances from smaller nations, including a historic final-four appearance for Morocco.

And the other factor that has added to the excitement is the final itself – to be fought between Argentina, one of the most universally loved footballing nations and France, the defending champions and arguably the strongest side of the tournament.

With 62 matches done and dusted and only two remaining, there is an air of quietness around Doha. Fans from many countries have already taken their flights back home as their teams have failed to get this far in the tournament.

Not the Argentines, though. They have been the boisterous brigade in this tournament since Day 1, even after the Albiceleste made a dreadful start to the campaign by losing to Saudi Arabia.

Some of them even staged demonstrations outside a Doha hotel demanding tickets from the Argentine FA for the final.

Each country that qualified for

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'Why is my bail being denied?'

Questions Bushra, still detained over Fardin's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In jail for more than a month despite apparently being innocent of the crime she has been accused of, Amatullah Bushra is devastated at Kashimpur Women's Central Jail, her family members said.

She was arrested by Rampura police on November 10 in a case filed over the death of Buet student Fardin Noor Parash. On Wednesday, the detective branch of police – in charge of investigating the case – said they suspected that Fardin had died by suicide, and also that they found that Bushra was not involved in his death.

But Bushra is likely to stay in jail till January 5 as a Dhaka court will hear her bail petition on that day.

Bushra's father, Manjurul Islam, told The Daily Star yesterday that she is worried about the delay in getting bail, as well as her education and future.

"I am innocent, why is my bail being delayed?" Manjurul Islam quoted his daughter as saying when he along with his wife visited her in jail recently.

The father consoled Bushra saying the court had gone on vacation and they would soon be able to get her out on bail.

The family said Bushra, a private university student, is in a state of immense distress as she was falsely implicated in the case.

Police arrested Bushra after Fardin's father Kazi Nooruddin filed a case with Rampura Police Station against her.


"Bushra was falsely implicated in the case... Although everyone already knows she is innocent, we are worried about her future," her uncle Mazharul Islam told The Daily Star.

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The construction of an iconic railway station in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar has been going on in full swing. Once built, the oyster-shaped station on 29 acres of land will connect the district with Chattogram and the rest of the country. The photo was taken in Ramu's Chandeparra area recently. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Immortal in the Memory of Profound Respect



Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam
(1928-2017)
Founder Chairman, Walton Group

Honor comes inevitably in mind with the name Alhaj S M Nazrul Islam, Founder Chairman, Walton Group, Pioneer of Electrical, Electronics, Home & Kitchen Appliance and Digital Device manufacturing industry in Bangladesh, who breathed his last leaving us in deep sorrow on 17 December 2017. With his demise, we have lost a Visionary Leader, an Inventor, a Pioneer and an Earnest Guardian of this industry. Inspired by his ethics, values and morals, Walton is going ahead in its own glory at both home and abroad. We always feel his presence following the footsteps he has left for us. His demise is something we can never recover from but we pray from the bottom of our hearts that his departed soul be granted Jannah where it finds eternal peace, Ameen.

