

Air purifiers for Dhaka

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When asked about action against polluters, Azaz admitted that government contractors are among the main contributors, particularly for failing to cover construction sites. "We are now taking this issue seriously and will take action," he said.

DHAKA'S ALARMING AIR QUALITY

The average concentration of PM2.5 – the most harmful air pollutants – in Dhaka is about 18 times higher than the global standard.

The World Health Organization recommends a limit of five microgrammes per cubic metre of PM2.5, particles smaller than 2.5 micrometres in diameter.

However, in 2023, the average concentration in the greater Dhaka area was 92 mcg/m³.

A World Bank presentation revealed that two-thirds of these pollutants are generated locally, while the rest come from outside Bangladesh. The findings were shared at a stakeholders' meeting titled "Air Quality in Bangladesh: Challenges and Solutions" at its office on January 26.

Sources include households, power plants, brick kilns, open waste burning, road dust, and vehicle emissions.

Household emissions from burning solid fuels account for 28 percent of pollution, posing a huge threat to rural women.

Other sources include power plants (24%), brick kilns (12%), waste burning (11%), road dust (8%), and transport (4%).

WHAT EXPERTS SAY

Prof Mostafizur Rahman of Jahangirnagar University's Department of Environmental Sciences said the air purifier initiative is not a practical solution. "This is just an attempt to bypass the real problem," he said.

"A few purifiers cannot reduce Dhaka's pollution. Their effectiveness, cost, and lifespan must be carefully evaluated before installation."

He noted that while a purifier may reduce pollution within a small perimeter, it won't have a significant impact in an open environment like Dhaka, where air constantly moves. "I have no confidence

in this approach. It's not a real environmental solution," he said.

Rahman added that recent studies show high levels of silicon particles in Dhaka's air, pointing to dust from construction sites as a major contributor. Other sources include vehicle emissions, industrial activity, and tire friction.

"The layout of Dhaka – with its mix of high-rises and low buildings – also restricts airflow, further worsening air quality," he said.

Adil Mohammed Khan, president of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, echoed similar concerns. "With the level of pollution in Dhaka, these purifiers won't work and will just waste money," he said.

"India tried this in Delhi with no effective results, as air moves from one place to another. The government should focus on long-term solutions," he said.

Asked, the DNCC administrator said the city corporation is not spending any money for the project. If the pilot project fails, they will not proceed with the initiative any further, he added.

BNP discusses

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comfortable working with an elected government, as it is easier to make decisions with such a government on mid-term, long term and crucial issues, added the BNP leader.

He also said they discussed several issues related to mutual interests between the two countries.

Russia is keen to enhance ties with Bangladesh that date back to the country's Liberation War in 1971, he added.

"They (Russia) have interests in several areas to advance this relationship, such as investment in Bangladesh and increasing trade," said Khasru.

The BNP leader said the issue of "humanitarian corridor" to Myanmar's Rakhine also came up during the meeting.

"We discussed it, as everyone has concerns over the matter. All want to see stability in the region. No one wants to see geopolitical instability, because if this region is unstable, it will not benefit anyone. Not only will Bangladesh suffer from insecurity, but the entire region will also be insecure, and no one will benefit from it," Khasru said.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Rows of shops line both sides of the highway in the Madam Bibir Hat area of Sitakunda, Chattogram, selling furniture, electronic items, ladders, ropes, and various other goods collected from old ships. Buyers from different parts of the country come here to purchase what they need.

Four-year term, 2-time cap for PM

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The 12-party delegation was led by Mostafa Jamal Haider, chairman of the Jatiyo Party (Kazi Zafar faction) and chief coordinator of the alliance. The alliance's spokesperson Shahadat Hossain Selim and 11 other leaders also attended.

The alliance opposed the commission's proposal to lower the minimum voting age to 17 and the candidacy age for MPs to 21.

"We insisted the voting age remain at 18 and the minimum age for MP candidates at 25. We are ready to launch a movement over this if necessary," said Selim.

He added, "We told the commission not to undermine politics by inviting mushrooming political groups. Some parties slept through the past 15 years and are now

being called into meetings – this is an insult to those of us who actively protested. The commission appears overly ambitious, as if trying to change the country overnight. We asked them to be more realistic – these changes will take time."

The BASAD delegation was led by Executive President Abdul Ali and included General Secretary Babul Mollah and five others.

Babul Mollah said the party agreed to limit both the prime minister and president to four-year terms, with the prime minister restricted to two terms.

BASAD also proposed that all 300 parliamentary seats be elected through proportional representation and that the Election Commission should bear the cost of elections.

Asked if they proposed an election date, Mollah

said they did not do so but emphasised the importance of timely elections.

He also said, "There is no comparison between July uprising and 1971. Without the Liberation War, there would be no July."

The session with the 12-party alliance was presided over by Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the National Consensus Commission, and moderated by Monir Hayder, special assistant to the Chief Adviser.

In his opening remarks, Prof Riaz said, "Building national consensus is not the commission's responsibility alone. Those of you who have joined the struggle and are engaging in dialogue – reach out to allies and other political forces. Let's find a way to unite."

Former DU VC

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at the police station, Rashed demanded that the accused be arrested within 48 hours.

In his complaint, Rashed recounted events beginning on April 8, 2018, when students held a mass rally at Shahbagh as part of the quota reform movement. Around 6:30pm, police launched an "unprovoked" attack with tear gas, prompting wider student protests across DU and nearby institutions.

Many students, including female students who reportedly broke dormitory gates, joined the demonstration.

"Fearing this student uprising, the government resorted to conspiracy," the complaint alleged.

Rashed claimed that around 1:00am on April 9, individuals wearing "Dhaka College Chhatra League" t-shirts attacked and vandalised the VC's residence, setting parts of it on fire. DU's senior security officer filed a case about the incident on April 10.

The statement also said senior Awami League leaders, including Presidium Member Jahangir Kabir Nanak, were seen near the DU campus during the attack.

It further alleged that pro-AL, the then leadership of central and DU BCL, and senior Awami League members orchestrated the incident to discredit the peaceful student movement.

Others named in the case include AL leaders Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Enamul Haque Shamim; former BCL leaders Saifur Rahman Sohag, SM Zakir Hossain, Abid Al Hasan, Motahar Hossain Prince, Al Nahian Khan Joy, and Sakib Hasan Sumi; Muktijoddha Sontan Command President Mehedi Hasan; the then president of DU Teachers' Association Prof Maksud Kamal; and former DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Abdus Samad.

Barrister Abdur Razzaq no more

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Razzaq, told The Daily Star. He said the janaza prayers will be held at the SC premises around 11:00am today.

The senior advocate, who was a former assistant secretary general Jamaat-e-Islami, was the chief defence counsel at the International Crimes Tribunal until the end of 2013, when he left Dhaka for London.

He resigned from his position as Jamaat's assistant secretary general from London on February 15, 2019. He returned home on December 26 last year after 11 years.

Razzaq was an expert on constitutional, civil, criminal, commercial and

international law. He had defended former Jamaat leaders Ghulam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Delwar Hossain Sayedee, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, and Abdul Quader Mollah before the ICT in Bangladesh during the trial proceedings of the cases filed in connection with the crimes against humanity and war crimes in 1971.


Chief Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has expressed profound grief at his death.

In a condolence message, the chief justice extended heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members and stated that the demise of Barrister Razzaq is an irreparable loss to the legal

community of Bangladesh. The nation has lost a distinguished jurist, he remarked.

Razzaq was born in 1949 in Shekhlal village of Beanibazar upazila in Sylhet. After obtaining his Barrister-at-Law degree from Lincoln's Inn, London, he returned to Bangladesh in 1986 and joined the legal profession.

PRAYER TIMING					
MAY 5					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 4-15	12-45	5-00	6-34	8-00	
JAMAAT 4-50	1-15	5-15	6-38	8-30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					



Dhaka South City Corporation

Engineering Department
Electrical Circle

Memo No-46.207.007.09.22.17.2025 Date-04/05/2025.

Re-Tender Notice

Re-Tender Notice is invited through e-GP Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle, Dhaka South Corporation for the Procurement of following packages :-

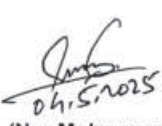
SI No.	Tender ID	Description of Work	Last Selling (Date and time)	Closing (Date & time)
1.	1101750	Supply, Fitting & fixing of necessary spare parts for Maintenance & repair of existing Air-Coolers at Mayor Mohammad Sayeed Khokon Center, Surtapur Community Center and Outfall Staff Quarter Under Zone-5 of DSSC.	15-MAY-2025 12.30 PM	15-MAY-2025 02.30 PM

This is online Tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and hard copies/offline will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

The fees for downloading the e-Tender Documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered Bank Branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

If necessary, information please contact to the PE's Support Desk (02-223386009).


(Nur Mohammad)
 Executive Engineer
 Electrical Circle
 Dhaka South City Corporation.
 Phone: 02-223386009

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Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1: National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs Modernization National Board of Revenue (NBR) IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka -1000, Bangladesh

Memo No. I(232)NSW Prokolpo/NBR-SD-8/Internal Audit 2025/2710 Date: 04 May 2025

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project-1 (P154580).
Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.: IDA 6002-BD
Assignment Title: Internal Audit Services
Reference No.: NBR-SD-8

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) – a member of the World Bank Group toward the cost of the National Single Window Project (NSW), and intends to apply part of the proceeds for Internal Audit Services.

The Internal Audit Services ("the Services") shall be carried out in accordance with the International Internal Auditing Standards and international best practices, for example, application of COSO Integrated framework, International Professional Practices Framework etc. for following two periods:
Period-1: From July 2018 to June 2024
Period-2: from July 2024 to June 2026

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the primary procurement stage for the assignment can be obtained at the address given below.

The National Single Window Project (NSW) of National Board of Revenue (NBR) now invites eligible Audit Firms ("Consultants/Firms") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested firms should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

- Core business and years in business,
- Relevant experience
 - Experience in Government of Bangladesh Audit projects,
 - Experience in auditing projects financed by multilateral banks (WB, ADB etc.),
 - Experience in establishment of Risk Based Internal Audit Departments;
 - Experience in auditing large development projects;
 - Experience in IT audit and internal process audit of IT projects;
- Technical and managerial capability of the firm.
- Firm's in-house staffing resources with relevant expertise (extent of relevant expertise available among the staff who are on the firm's regular payroll). However, CVs of key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

The shortlist will contain four to six firms.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs, 3.14, 3.16, and 3.17 of the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers" September 2023 ("Procurement Regulations"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. In addition, please refer to the following specific information on conflict of interest related to this assignment: neither a consultant (including personnel and sub consultants), nor an affiliate (that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that Consultant), shall be hired for any assignment that, by its nature, creates a conflict of interest with another assignment of the Consultant;

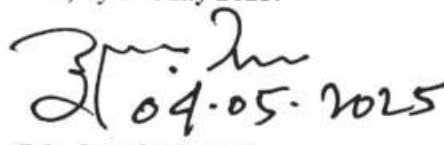
Consultants are requested to submit at least the following supporting documents in support of the above-mentioned criteria: (a) The Firm's Incorporation/Trade/registration documents from the country of the firm; (b) JV agreement/letter of intent (if applicable); (c) Firm's brochure; (d) Audited financial reports for last 3 years; (e) list of the firm's in-house/regular staff with relevant expertise (f) description of experience of similar assignments (including nature, scope of services, contract amount, name of employer, period of contract (date of contract signing to date of completion) funding agency(s), location /country of service etc.).

Firms may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

An audit firm will be selected in accordance with the FBS method described in the Procurement Regulations and to be specifically set out in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail) by **19 May 2025.**


(Mr. Jewel Ahmed)
 Project Director
 Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1 (BRCP 1): Implementation of National Single Window (NSW) and Strengthening Customs Modernization, 160/A, (10th floor) IDEB Bhaban, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000
 E-mail: pdnswn.nbr@gmail.com

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