

The Daily Star, 29 November 2018

## **Dhaka's microclimate worsening fast**

Speakers at workshop blame lack of proper action plan  
Unb, Dhaka

Speakers at a workshop yesterday were of the view that due to a lack of proper action plan, Dhaka city's microclimate situation is rapidly worsening, making a major impact on its development and habitation.

They said many plans were taken for the development of Dhaka but most of those remained unimplemented.

“None, but one action plan of 1959 centring Dhaka city's coordinated development witnessed implementation,” Iqbal Habib, member secretary of Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon, said while speaking at the workshop held at BIISS Auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the workshop, titled “Mitigation strategies for the urban microclimate of Dhaka megacity to reduce adverse climate change impact”, with Professor Tawhida Rashid, chairman of Department of Meteorology at Dhaka University.

The function was also addressed by Planning Commission Member (General Economics) Prof Shamsul Alam, eminent environmentalist Dr Atiq Rahman, BIISS Director General Maj Gen AKM Abdur Rahman, Dhaka University Prof Abdus Salam, Prof Kazi Maruful Haque, East West University Prof AK Enamul Haque, and Green Savers Association President Ahsan Rony.

The keynote presentation was made by Dr Ashraf Dewan of Curtin University of Australia and three members of a project study team at the workshop.

In the presentation, it was said that Dhaka will be the 4th largest megacity, considering its population, on the planet by 2025 but due to a lack of proper action plan, its microclimate situation is deteriorating fast.

Dr Atiq Rahman said water, energy and food management have to be in a coordinated manner as everything related to environment is linked to the three.

An official of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department informed the workshop that his office has set up 200 air quality monitoring stations across the city.

He said some more stations will be set up soon.

Iqbal Habib said Dhaka's population grew enormously since independence while it lost greenery, ponds, and canals. But no action plan was implemented to recover the lost water bodies although it is still possible to recover those.

Prof Maruful Haque said the government undertakes too many policies and plans. However, little has been implemented. The lack of implementation has huge costs.

Prof Shamsul Alam said that Dhaka city's air quality is reaching a dangerous level and many diseases are the result of that.

He said the government has undertaken an 81-year Delta Plan to deal with environment and other issues, adding that the Delta Plan 2100 will be upgraded every five years to accommodate the emerging issues.

<https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/dhakas-microclimate-worsening-fast-1666723>

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## **Experts blame unplanned urbanisation for rising temperature of cities**

'The mega cities of South Asia, including Dhaka, will experience more heat waves by 2025 if carbon emission continues at the present rate'

FE Report

Researchers and urban experts said on Wednesday temperature of the cities has been rising due to unplanned urbanisation, destruction of natural greens and blue network and climate change creating health hazards for humans.

Various studies have found that the surface or ground temperature of Dhaka city has increased from one degree Celsius to three degrees Celsius between 1991 and 2011.

Experts have predicted that if carbon emission continues at the present rate, the mega cities of South Asia, including Dhaka, will experience more heat waves by the year 2025 as the temperature will cross human survival rate of 31 degrees Celsius.

But most of the cities will not survive in 2075 if the carbon emission rate exceeds the present trend.

They made the observations at an inception workshop on 'Mitigation Strategies for the Urban Microclimate of Dhaka Megacity to Reduce Adverse Climate Change Impacts,' a research project funded by World Bank.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the workshop at its auditorium.

BIISS, Curtin University of Australia and Meteorology Department of Dhaka University will conduct a one-year research to be completed by December 2019.

Curtin University Professor Ashraf Dewan and BIISS researcher Mahfuz Kabir presented papers on the theme.

General Economics Division (GED) member Shamsul Alam was present as the chief guest.

In his presentation, Mr Ashraf said the temperature in urban areas has been increasing more than the rural areas due to high-rise buildings, population density and wrong street orientation reducing evaporation.

"Urban areas are warmer than the rural areas, popularly known as urban heat island (UHI). The microclimate problems have contributed in the enhanced survival rate of new kind of vectors like mosquito and other germs causing new diseases like dengue, chikungunia and respiratory diseases," he said.

The temperature of Dhaka has also risen due to increased use of the air conditioner and obstruction in passage of wind for the high-rise buildings, he added.

Citing Im et al (2017) prediction, Mr Ashraf said, "We are afraid that the magnitude of heat waves will increase in South Asia, especially in mega cities like Dhaka, Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Karachi and Lahore as the temperature will cross the human survival rate of 31 degrees Celsius by 2025 if the present carbon emission rate continues".

Through the research project, the researchers will observe the temperature of roads, buildings and various spots to detect the critical areas and to sort out mitigation and adaptation measures to save the city before it affects the country.

Member secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) Iqbal Habib said the area of Dhaka city has increased 19 times and its population density 25 times after the country's independence till 2010.

Expressing dissatisfaction over non-implementation of any plan for Dhaka after 1959, he said no new plan will be meaningful if the previous plans are not implemented.

He underlined the need for implementation of the revised Detailed Area Plan (DAP) along with the urban revitalisation and vegetation programme.

Mr Iqbal stressed creating blue and green network, with special emphasis on reclamation of the canals and undertaking of effective measures to return to green network.

He believes that 42 out of the total 52 canals of the capital can still be reclaimed.

"Water flow can massively control city temperature," he added.

The government should be strict in enforcement of various rules and regulations to save the environment, said Mr Iqbal.

"The role of the regulator should be stringent. The city corporations and Rajuk should play the role more of a regulator than of a developer," he said.

Shamsul Alam said in 1971, average temperature was 25.6 degrees Celsius which has increased to 1.1 degrees Celsius in 48 years.

Referring to Delta Plan 2100, he said it has included the adverse impact of climate change and how it will affect the economic growth, production and employment.

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<http://today.thefinancialexpress.com.bd/metro-news/experts-blame-unplanned-urbanisation-for-rising-temperature-of-cities-1543429449>

The Independent, 29 November 2018

## **Temperature in Dhaka rising ‘alarmingly’**

Staff Reporter, Dhaka

The average temperature in Dhaka city is on the rise at an alarming rate. Terming this as an effect of climate change, experts at a seminar yesterday said unless the capital of 17 million comes up with sustainable green and blue spaces, the effect will be more adverse in the coming days.

The seminar, “Mitigation strategies for the urban micro-climate of Dhaka mega city”, was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic and Studies (BISS), Dhaka University and Curtin University of Australia at the BISS auditorium in the capital.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr Ashraf Dewan of Curtin University of Australia said Dhaka is facing the classic example of urban heat island (UHI) effect. UHI refers to a phenomenon where urban areas get significantly warmer than rural areas.

Dr Dewan, Dr Ruhul Salim of Curtin University, Dr Towhida Rashid of Dhaka University and Dr Mahfuz Kabir of BISS are jointly conducting a study under grant from the World Bank to carry out a research on the effects of microclimatic

changes on Dhaka. The study hasn’t been completed yet.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Dewan said land coverage is changing very rapidly in Dhaka city and this contributes directly to the effect of UHI. “The lack of green space, as well as blue space, is a contributory factor to the UHI.”

He said with an urban growth rate of more than 4 per cent annually, Dhaka, which already hosts more than 17 million people, is one of the fastest growing cities in Southern Asia, and is projected to accommodate more than 20 million by 2025.

“The sheer number of people living in the city means that the negative consequences of climate change are likely to be felt by a large number of people, especially the urban poor who live in flood-prone and water-logged areas,” he said.

During the seminar, researchers studying the impact of climate change on Dhaka predicted that the city will be affected in two major ways: flooding and drainage congestion, and heat stress.

Architect Iqbal Habib said high urban growth rates and high urban densities have already made Dhaka more susceptible to human-induced environmental disasters.

He said nearly 60 per cent of the area in the city have poor or no drainage and are prone to frequent flooding.

Habib said Rajuk, the custodian of Dhaka's development, could not implement DAP though it was taken up in the 90s. "Like municipalities, city corporations should have the authority to deal with city issues. Most of the city corporations in the world have the authority to formulate their city development plans, implement those and enforce the law."

He said the government should entrust the two city corporations with the responsibility of implementing DAP, instead of Rajuk, for its timely and proper execution.

<http://www.theindependentbd.com/printversion/details/176529>

The New Nation, 29 November 2018

## **Dhaka's microclimate degrading fast**

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a workshop on Wednesday opined that due to lack of proper action plan Dhaka city's microclimate situation is rapidly degrading which has a big impact on its development and habitation.

They said many plans were taken for the development of Dhaka city but most of those remained unimplemented.

"None, but one action plan of 1959 centering Dhaka city's coordinated development witnessed implementation", Iqbal Habib, member secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon, an environment movement body, said while addressing the workshop held at BIISS Auditorium in the city.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the workshop titled: "Mitigation Strategies for the Urban Microclimate of Dhaka Megacity to Reduce Adverse Climate Change Impact" with Professor Tawhida Rashid, chairman of Department of Meteorology of Dhaka University.

The function was also addressed by Planning Commission Member (general economics) Prof Shamsul Alam, eminent environmentalist Dr Atiq Rahman, BIISS director general Major General AKM Abdur Rahman, Dhaka University Prof Abdus Salam, Prof Kazi Maruful Haque,

East West University Prof AK Enamul Haque, and Green Savers Association president Ahsan Rony.

The keynote presentation was made by Dr Ashraf Dewan of Curtin University of Australia and three members of a project study team at the workshop.

In the presentation, it was said that Dhaka will be the 4th largest megacity considering its population on the planet in 2025. But due to lack of proper action plan, its microclimate situation is rapidly degrading .

Dr Atiq Rahman said water, energy and food management have to be in a coordinated manner as everything related to environment is linked to the three things.

An official of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department informed the workshop that his office has set up 200 air quality monitoring stations across the Dhaka city. He said some more stations will be set up soon.

Iqbal Habib said Dhaka city's population grew enormously since independent while it lost greenery, ponds, and canals. But no action plan was implemented to recover the lost canals although it is still possible to recover them.

He said many speak about greenery of Dhaka by plantation. But once Dhaka was a city of canals and ponds and it will not be sustainable to implement any plan for the mega city averting its unique natural character.

Prof Maruful Haque said the government takes too many policies and plans. But little was implemented. The lack of implementation has huge cost. Prof Shamsul Alam said that Dhaka city's air quality is reaching to a dangerous level and many diseases are the result of such degradation in air quality.

He said the government has undertaken an 81-year Delta Plan to deal with environment and other issues. He said Delta Plan 2100 will be upgraded every five year to accommodate the emerging issues.

<http://thedailynewnation.com/news/197410/dhakas-microclimate-degrading-fast.html>