

Dhaka's air 4th most polluted in the world this morning

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Online Desk: With an air quality index (AQI) score of 194 at 9:15 am today, Dhaka ranked 4th in the list of cities worldwide with the worst air quality. Pakistan's Lahore, India's Delhi, and Thailand's Chiang Mai, occupied the first three spots on the list, with AQI scores of 238, 231 and 204, respectively.

An AQI between 151 and 200 is considered “unhealthy” while between 201 and 300 is “very unhealthy”, and 301–400 is “hazardous”, posing severe health risks to residents, UNB reports.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is based on five criteria pollutants — Particulate Matter (PM10 and PM2.5), NO₂, CO, SO₂ and Ozone. Dhaka has long been grappling with air pollution issues. Its air quality usually turns unhealthy in winter and improves during the monsoon.

Air pollution consistently ranks among the top risk factors for death and disability worldwide. As per the World Health Organization (WHO), air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.