

Dhaka ranks 8th globally in air pollution

Dhaka ranked 8th among the world's most polluted cities on Wednesday morning, recording an Air Quality Index (AQI) score of 143 at 10:20 am.

The air quality was classified as 'unhealthy for sensitive group', means that health risks to vulnerable individuals while the general public is mostly unaffected, according to the AQI scale.

Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur topped the list with an AQI score of 211.

India's Kolkata and Singapore of the Singapore ranked second and third, respectively, with AQI scores of 196 and 166.

According to AQI standards, a reading between 101 and 150 is considered 'unhealthy for sensitive groups', while 151 to 200 is classified as 'unhealthy'. A reading between 201 and 300 is considered 'very unhealthy', while levels above 301 are deemed 'hazardous', posing serious health risks.

The AQI provides daily updates on air quality, indicating how clean or polluted the air is and highlighting potential health impacts.

In Bangladesh, the AQI is calculated based on five major pollutants: particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2) and ozone.

Dhaka has long struggled with air pollution, with air quality typically deteriorating during winter and improving during the monsoon season.

The World Health Organization estimates that air pollution

causes around seven million deaths globally each year, mainly from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.