

# 'Enact tobacco control law, save millions of lives'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pratyasha, an anti-drug organisation, brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding enactment of a tobacco control law to save millions of lives from smoking-related diseases.

City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, also advisor to the organisation, inaugurated the procession.

The procession that started from the Nagar Bhaban premises was participated by ward commissioners and members of the civil society, including Pratyasha President Liakat Ali.

Pratyasha secretary general Helal Ahmed said the organisation would continue the movement until its demand is met.

"We will submit a memorandum

to the prime minister and meet the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament for enactment of a law in this regard," he added.

Helal said a motorcycle procession would be brought out soon to create awareness among the people about the harmful effects of smoking.

According to experts, about 50 lakh people die every year around the world of smoking-related diseases.

They said the number of smokers in the Third World countries, including Bangladesh, has increased because of the 'deluding publicity' by the tobacco companies.

"And if such publicity goes unchallenged, an epidemic of smoking related diseases might break out in the country," they said.

