Dhaka Day by Day

No Fire without Some Smoke

by Farah Ghuznavi

Most educated people these days are aware of the health hazards caused by cigarette consumption. It is hard not to be, given the clear linkages that have been established between smoking and lung cancer, as well as a variety of other illnesses, including respiratory problems and cardiac illnesses. Under the circumstances therefore, it is hard to understand why so many people go on smoking, despite their awareness of the damage that it does to their health. Nevertheless, many smokers would be well advised to note that there is nowadays and additional health hazard posed by smoking in public places, which consists of opposition from fed-up nonsmokers!

As a reasonably tolerant person. I can accept that people have the right to kill themselves if they so choose (whether they choose tobacco or euthanasia is up to them!) However, like many others, I find it completely unreasonable when smokers insist on inflicting their effluent on others. Of course, there are smokers who are considerate enough to do their smoking on their own time and in their own space, and my comments are not directed at them. I refer to the vast majority of smokers, who act as if they couldn't care less how much hassle they create for others.

During a trip to the US some time ago. I was amused to see a group of smokers huddled together outside a building smoking up a storm. It was winter and freezing cold, and the building's nonsmoking policy meant that they had to come outside to have a cigarette! What was amazing was that they were desperate enough to do that in that weather (clear proof, if any is needed, of how addictive nicotine is!), but then nobody ever got anywhere by underestimating the determination of the habitual smoker.

What is rather less amusing is when smokers insist on smoking in "no smoking" areas, such as designated rows in airplanes. I think virtually everyone has had an experience of this nature, but I was shocked recently to see a stewardess on Bangladesh Biman struggle unsuccessfully for two hours, trying to prevent a group of men seated in the non-smoking compartment from smoking. And for those compassionate souls who drag out the tired excuse of how deprived smokers suffer on long-haul flights (those of us who have to inhale their smoke suffer as well!). I would like to clarify that this was only a two-hour flight!

Nor is it only rude vobs who contravene such regulations. I was told a story about a Bangladeshi ex-diplomat who insisted on smoking in the non-smoking section of an airplane during a flight some years ago, despite the stewardess' entreaties, until he was moved to the smoking section. His offspring proudly related this story as an illustration of the father's strength of will, but there are those of us who would describe such behaviour in less complimentary

With passive smoking being a major killer of women in the US (and no doubt elsewhere, too), it is perhaps not altogether surprising that non-smokers are beginning to fight back. Not just by getting planes. buildings, restaurants and other areas designated as no smoking zones, but with direct action at the individual level as well! Smokers who persist in ignoring rules deserve to be treated in exactly the same way as they behave, and there seem to be some non-smokers these days who are willing to challenge such behaviour.

A classic example of the aggressive nonsmoker is a Japanese woman I met recently, while attending a conference. We went in for dinner, where (despite the conference having been designated a nonsmoking one) a number of ashtrays had inexplicably been placed on the dining tables. Without missing a beat, the fiery Akiko went up to the table, picked up all seven ashtrays and thrust them at the dining hall manager. saying, "Are you aware that this is a nonsmoking conference? Why are these ashtrays here? Take them away immediately!"

Subsequently, when confronted by a Chinese participant, who was a persistent smoker, and pretended not to understand the objections of other participants (despite having another Chinese participant request him in the same language to stop smoking). she made such a scene that even he was forced to stop. But that was only after Akiko had indicated her disapproval by acting out an entire theatrical production where she choked, gasped and clutched at her throat, and then finally held out an ashtray to him in which to stub out his cigarette! Talk about desperate situations requiring desperate measures. Finally, for those who feel that her behaviour was excessive, I would just like to point out that if smokers followed the rules in such situations, she would not have had to go to those lengths.

Corrigendum

An inadvertent omission and a mistake concern Friday's Dhaka Day By Day piece. The omission is the writer's name. Samia Islam is the writer of "The Securities Who Make People Insecure," in which 'make' was wrongly printed as 'makes.



Titas Gas team

meets Biswas

A 35-member delegation

of Titas Gas Employees Wel-

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division called on President

Abdur Rahman Biswas at Ban

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Advisor of the association

Talking to them, Presi-

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NOTRE DAME COLLEGE ADMISSIONS



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SSC marks will be used to determine merit for admission into this college. Candidates will be evaluated separately for city, town, village and minority and humanitarian cat-

The test of Aug.30,31, Sept.1 will be held as scheduled since it is required for placement and grouping of all successful applicants.

We regret the use of our college name and false claims regarding our

admission process given to candidates by unscrupulous coaching centres.

Qulkhani



Late Ambassador M. A. Qayyum, Bangladesh Ambassador to Morocco, Mali, Algeria and Mauritania will be held on Sunday, the 27th August '95 at the residence of his father late Professor Abdul Moktader at House No. 302/A, Tally Office Road, Rayer Bazar Dhaka at 5 PM after Asar prayer.

Ambassador Qayyum died of a massive heart attack on 22nd, August, at Zia International Air port, Dhaka, on arrival in connection with state visit of President of Mali. Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to kindly attend the Qul.



The Dhaka University Alumni Association brought out a grand rally on the campus Friday marking the 75th founding anniversary of the university. - DU photo

What's on today

Cassette launching: The launching of the album Antar Theke Balchhi by Rabi Chowdhury will be held. Venue: Rajmoni Isa Kha Hotel. Time: 7 pm. Chief guest: Music composer Satya Saha.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of the book Pita. Aamra Mukta Akash Dekhchhi by Dr Syed Modasser Ali will be held. Venue: National Museum. Time: 6:30 pm. Speakers: Justice K M Sobhan, Mamtajuddin Ahmed and Sved Hasan Imam.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: The society has organised a four-day Indian film session. Today's film: Mrigaga (the Royal Hunt) by Mrinal Sen. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 6

Nazrul Institute: A discussion, musical soiree, poetry recitation, prize-distribution among child artistes and a dance drama will mark the closing of the three-day programme of the institute. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, Dhanmondi. Time: 4 pm. Chief guest: Minister of Commerce and Information M Shamsul Islam. Prof Anisuzzaman will preside. Artistes of Kathakali will present the dance drama - Kaberi Teere.

Bangla Academy lecture on Nazrul: The academy will hold a discussion on the rural life in Nazrul's poetry. Venue: The 'batamul' of the academy. Time: 10:30 am. Dr Tashiqul Islam will read the keynote paper.

Discussion on Nazrul: A discussion meeting and cultural function will be held in observance of the 19th death anniversary of poet Nazrul. Chief guest: KCC mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman. Venue: Shilpakala Academy auditorium. Time: 7 pm.

Blood donation programme: The Vivekananda Shiksha O Sanskritic Parishad, Dhaka University, has organised a voluntary blood donation programme to mark the 19th death anniversary of poet Nazrul. Venue: Aparajeyo Bangla, DU. Time: 9 am.

Nazrul Academy: The academy will host a discussion on poet Nazrul in connection with the observance of 19th anniversary of the poet. Venue: Engineers' Institution. Time: 5 pm. A cultural function will follow. Keynote speaker: Prof Mobasher Ali.

Lekhak Sangsad awards 3

By Staff Correspondent

spectively.

Three personalities from the world of literature, journalism and public relations were honoured vesterday by the Bangladesh Lekhak Sangsad (BLS) for outstanding contribution in their respective fields.

The honourees - novelist Shams Rashid, veteran jourmalist Rekonuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai) and the PRO of Hotel Sheraton, Rashida Mohiuddin- were presented with the first BLS gold medal and crest by M Shamsul Islam. Minister for Commerce and information at a brief ceremony, held at a city

"Where genius is not recognised, geniuses are not born." the minister said quoting Dr Shahidullah. The initiative taken by Lekhak Sangsad to honour deserving persons in all spheres of national life, is indeed a wel-

come one." he added. The function was attended by Reazuddin Ahmed. president of the Jatiyo Press Club. Dr Ashraf Siddiqui. Prof Nasim Banu and Sayeeda Zaman, chairperson and general secretary of the BLS re-

The recently formed Lekhak Sangsad, comprising mostly of women writers, is a spin-off of the Bangladesh Lekhika Sangha.

Plan to fill up Dhanmondi Lake decried

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhanmondi Residents Association of Welfare (DRAW) has protested the proposal to fill up the Dhanmondi Lake partially and threatened to resist any such move through legal action.

The association, in a handout yesterday said that the lake, being the only breathing space for the residents of the area, has been a part of the master plan of the capital.

The association urged the authority concerned to drop the plan to fill up the water

Qulkhwani

The quikhwani of Jebun Nahar, 45. Headmistress of Dhanmondi Government Primary School will be held today after Asr prayers at her 32/1/B Shukrabad residence, says a press release.

Jebun Nahar, wife of Abu Musa. Deputy Director of FPAB, died of cardiac arrest Thursday last in the city.



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For the payment of interim dividend the Transfer Book and Share Register of the Company will remain closed from Thursday, 14 September to Wednesday, 20 September 1995, both days inclusive.

Shareholders are kindly requested to collect their cheques for interim dividend from the Registered Office of the Company from Saturday, 7 October 1995. The cheques which are not collected by 15 October 1995 will be mailed to the Shareholders on 16 October 1995.

Dated 26 August, 1995

Sheema Huq Company Secretary

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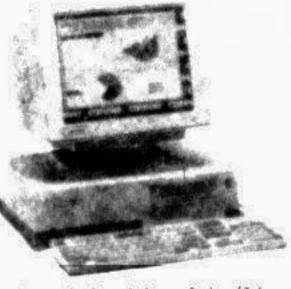
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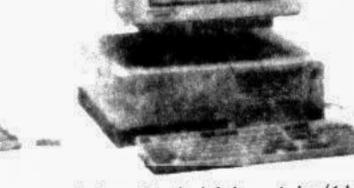
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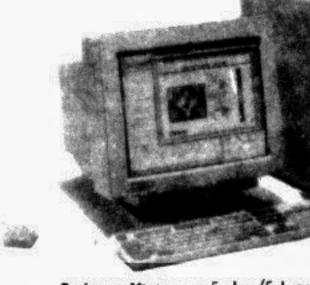
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| 486 DX4/100 | 8 MB RAM 126 KB Cache | M420 | integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controller |
| 586 75 | 8 MB RAM: 256 KB Cache | M270 or M420 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controller |
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| 486 DX4/100 | 8 MB RAM; 128 KB Cache | M420 | integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| 500 75 | 8 MB RAM; 256 KB Cache | M420 or M720 | integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| 586 90 | 8 MB RAM: 256 KB Cache | M420 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| | 16 MB RAM: 256 KB Cache | M720 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| | 16 MB RAM, 256 KB Cache | M720 | QVision 2000 Graphics Controller |
| | Minitow | er: 5 expansion slots x 5 drive ba | ys |
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| 486 DX4/100 | 8 MB RAM: 128 KB Cache | M420 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| 98.75 | 8 MB RAM 256 KB Cache | M420 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| | 16 MB RAM: 256 KB Cache | M720 | OVision 2000 Graphics Controller |
| 588 90 | 8 MB RAM: 256 KB Cache | M420 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| | 16 MB RAM 256 KB Cache | M720 | Integrated PCI Local Bus Graphics Controlle |
| | 16 MB RAM, 256 KB Cache | M720 | ÖVision 2000 Graphics Controller |
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