

## Metropolitan

## Dhaka Day by Day

## It's A Smoky Affair

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

When asked why he can't quit smoking, a 22-year-old gives ten reasons rightaway. Most of them are silly and boring, to say the least. Here is one for instance, "everyone else is doing it, why shouldn't I? What's the big deal?"

Well, he is right. It is his life and he can do whatever he wants. Many obnoxious smokers possibly feel the same way. But what's the big deal? Surely the non-smokers and anti-smoking groups are aware of exactly how serious and dangerous the habit is and know quite well what the fuss is all about?

It is a free country so everyone is entitled to do what he or she pleases — provided of course, it doesn't harm others. For a great number of educated, responsible adults, smoking is a conscious choice. Therefore, there is nothing to say if they don't have any concern for their own health, but must they show a blatant indifference to other peoples health as well?

Like the terrible traffic jam, appalling pollution, insecurity and other sad realities, the fed-up citizens hardly have any option but to accept smoking as a prevalent unhealthy practice of the city. Yet, any rational individual knows that even those who abstain from smoking can suffer as passive smokers, almost as much as the cigarette smokers.

Think about how many times on a daily basis, one has to encounter people addicted to that thin, lethal stick of nicotine. Your day might begin with your skinny rickshaw puller puffing away at his cheap 'bidi' as if life depended on it, while sending the clouds of smoke in your direction. As if Dhaka's noxious fume and garbage stench are not bad enough, one also has to put up with the daily dose of toxic tobacco. But of course the three wheeler drivers can be pardoned as they are ignorant people with normally little or no knowledge about health

Even at the educational institutions and offices people smoke away, often in air conditioned rooms with an amazing nonchalance. And of course it seldom does anyone any good to be vocal about the bad effects. Why waste breath for nothing. The terrible tendency can ruin interesting shopping sprees as well. Being forced to inhale the awful stuff while pushing and shoving one's way around the crowded markets definitely kills the fun.

Then school and college boys making smoke signals in the air is a very common and disturbing sight at the malls. They start in their teens but usually don't kick off the habit — unless medical conditions put a stop to it.

One person who wants to remain anonymous said, he'll die if he quits smoking. Considering the fact that he needs six packs a day, he probably won't live that long anyway. How ironic! Please excuse my insensitivity. But why should one bother about those who don't care for themselves?

Back in the 60s and 70s, smoking was perhaps considered 'hip'. Yes, imagine the Romeoos of the bygone days clad in tight shirts and bell-bottoms with long side-burns, leaning on the university boundary walls or squatting on the wide lawns, enjoying their precious cigarettes.

Funnily enough, though smoking is regarded no longer as an 'in' thing in the 90s, the scenario hasn't changed that much, all except for the attire mentioned — that is. Cigarette crazy people are still found everywhere as they were in the old times.

After all that moaning and groaning about smoking and smokers, here is a piece of good news. There is another group of people who absolutely abhor smoking. Many of them were

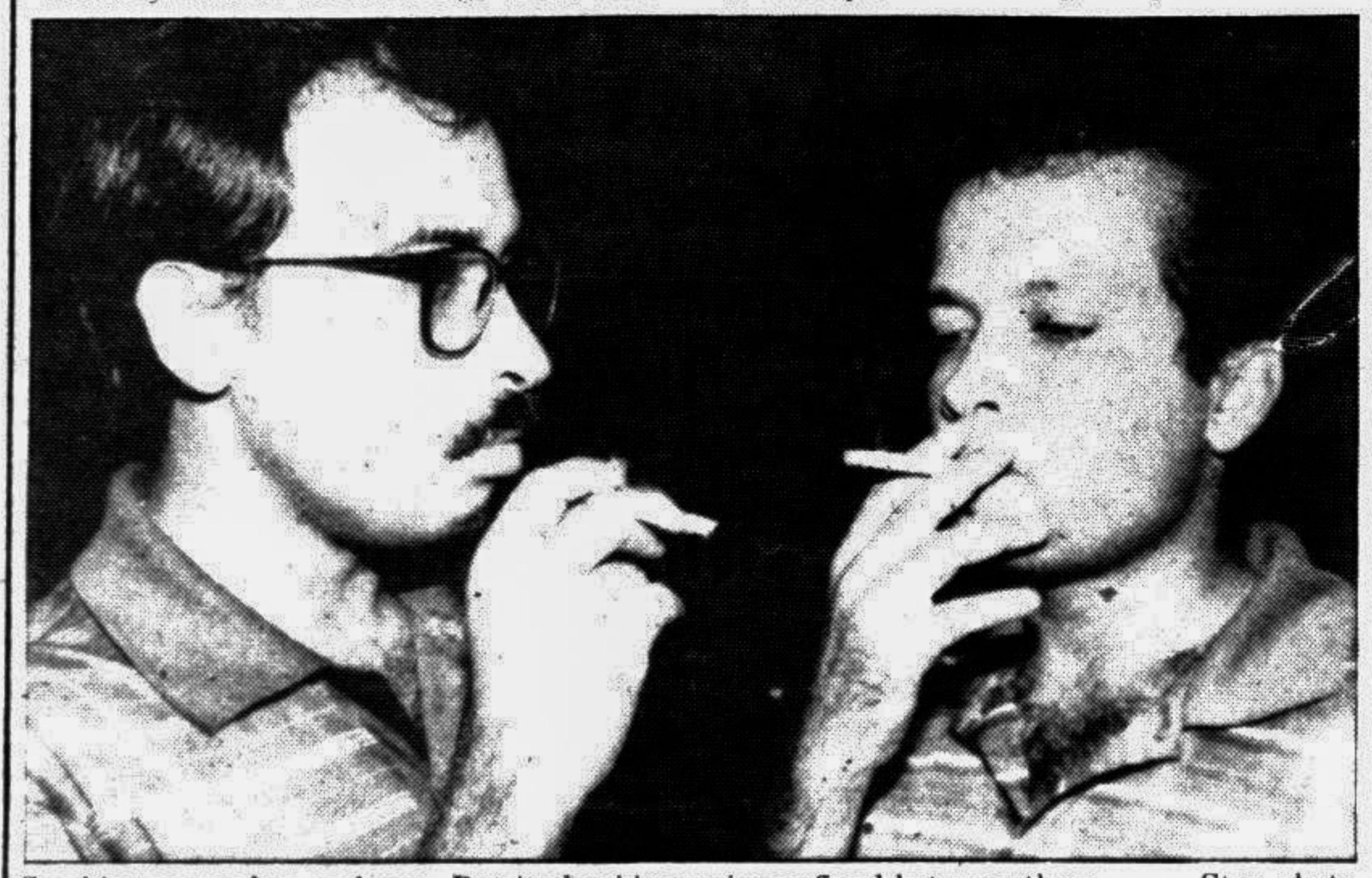
smoking comrades, no harm. But it should remain confined between them. — Star photo

hazards. But what about the enlightened folks who turn a blind eye to non-smoking signs? Then again, honestly speaking how many of us are well mannered enough to follow written instructions, right? No matter how much you try, you can't escape from smoking. Irrespective of sex and socio-economic backgrounds, from adolescents to adults many indulge in this poisonous passion.

former tobacco indulgents who have finally realized the benefits of clean living. A once-upon-a-time chain-smoker microbiologist gave up the habit, while working on a cancer research programme. So, it is easy, all one needs is the inclination to stop. The decision is entirely up to the person. However, it would be appreciated if the smokers showed respect to the city's non-smoking population.



The outgoing UNDP resident representative, Eimi Watanabe paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday. — PID photo



Smoking comrades, no harm. But it should remain confined between them. — Star photo



Members of the Dhaka University Debating Society brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of 2nd National Debating Festival. — Star photo

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer  
Coastal Forest Division, Chittagong

### Tender Notice No. 02

Dated 8.8.96

Tenders in the prescribed schedule form under sealed cover are invited from bona fide manufacturing firms/experienced suppliers for purchase of the required number polythene bags stated against the specification in the undermentioned schedule for raising saplings in poly bags at different ranges of this Division under the Coastal Green Belt Project during 1996-97 financial year. The tender will be received in the tender box kept at this office up to 12:00 Noon of 03-09-96 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 pm before the tenders (if any) present. Tender terms & conditions and other information can be seen & obtained and schedule can be purchased on payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) only as fee (non-refundable) per set up to the day before the date of receiving tender.

## Schedule

Serial	Name of work	Quantity of polythene bags	Time for completion of work
1.	Supply of polythene bag-SPECIFICATION:	6,78,884 (3,394.42 kg) (approximately)	15 (fifteen) days
A)	Each bag should be one side open & the other side closed with heatpress by machine and contain, in two rows, 3 dia 6 holes at 2' from bottom & again 6 holes at 6' from bottom.		
B)	Size of polythene bag should be 25.40x15.25 cm & thickness 0.08 mm.		
C)	Number of polythene bag per kg should be 200.		

Divisional Forest Officer  
Coastal Forest Division  
Chittagong

## Weather

## Heavy shower likely

Heavy rainfall is likely at one or two places over Chittagong and Barisal divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today reports UNB.

Met office says occasional moderate rain with gusty wind may occur at most places throughout the country during the period.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Met office predicted little change in the next two days, while giving an extended outlook for the subsequent five days it forecast improvement of weather.

Country's highest temperature yesterday 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the lowest 23.5 degrees at three places — Barisal, Cox's Bazar and Kutubdia.

Meantime, Chittagong experienced the highest 55 mm rain

followed by Cox's Bazar with 31 mm rain. Besides, Rajshahi had 27 mm rain, Faridpur and Sylhet 16 mm each, Barisal 15 mm, Mymensingh 10 mm, Dhaka and Rangpur 8 mm rain each.

The sun sets today at 6:27 pm and rises on Thursday at 5:38 am.

Maximum and Minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in Percentage
Dhaka	29.6	26.0
Chittagong	29.6	24.0
Rajshahi	31.5	25.0
Khulna	26.8	25.4
Barisal	26.5	23.5
Sylhet	30.2	24.2
Cox's Bazar	28.2	23.5

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## NOTICE

It is for general information that I have stopped Manpower Export business and accordingly Recruiting Agency Licence No. RL-169 has been surrendered to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training and a request has been made to refund our security deposit. Any financial claim/complaint against my agency will have to be submitted for settlement to the undermentioned address within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice. Copies of such claim/complaint may also be submitted to the Director General, Bureau of Manpower, Employment & Training, 89/2, Kakrila, Dhaka and Deputy Secretary (Manpower), Ministry of Labour & Manpower, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka.

Name of Proprietor : Fariduddin Khan  
Name of Agency : Ms. Majal Development Corporation (BD)  
Address : DIT Annex Building (1st Floor), Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka.  
Licence No. : RL-169

## LEGAL NOTICE

In the Supreme Court of Bangladesh  
High Court Division  
(Original Civil Jurisdiction)

## Matter No. 35 of 1996.

In the matter of:  
An application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND

In the matter of:  
Majbari Industries Limited, represented by its Managing Director, Kazi Aminur Rahman, Kazi Bhaban (Second floor), 39, New Elephant Road, Dhaka. Petitioner.

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 12 read with Section 13 of the Companies Act, 1994 for confirmation of the amendments of the Memorandum of Association of the "Majbari Industries Ltd." was moved before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. Upon hearing the application the Hon'ble Court has been pleased to admit the same on 7.8.96 and fixed it for hearing on 6.11.96.

Any person interested to oppose the said application may appear before the Court by himself or through an Advocate duly authorised by him on the date fixed.

Copy of the application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of necessary costs.

Md Ozair Farooq  
Advocate, Supreme Court  
1/B, Lake Circus, Kalabagan,  
Dhaka-1205

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