

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 lovers.

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 Romeo 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.



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 bonafide 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 tenderers (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 No.	Name of work	Quantity of polythene bags	Time for completion of work
1.	Supply of polythene bag-SPECIFICATION: 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.	6,78,884 (3,394.42 kg) (approximately)	15 (fifteen) days

Divisional Forest Officer
Coastal Forest Division
Chittagong

DFP-17921-1378
G-972



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

What's on today....

Discussion on Nat'l Mourning Day: Bangladesh Awami Juba League will hold a discussion meeting marking the National Mourning Day. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend the meeting as chief guest while Sheikh Fazlul Karim Salim, MP, will preside. Venue: Engineers' Institution auditorium. Time: 3:30 PM.

Workshop on poverty and finance: A 3-day workshop on "Poverty and finance in Bangladesh: Reviewing two decades of experience," organised jointly by Institute for Development Policy Analysis of Proshika, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management and Credit and Development Forum, will begin. Chief guest: Finance Minister S A M S Kibria. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9 am

Seminar on feed supply: A day-long seminar on "Feed supply for sustainable livestock farming," organised by Business Advisory Services Centre (BASC). Venue: BARC conference room, Farmgate. Time: 9 am-4 pm.

Science lecture: Dr A K M Abdul Matin, Director, Institute for Oceanography, Chittagong will deliver a lecture on "Problems of Coastal Environment in Bangladesh." National Museum for Science and Technology has arranged the session. Venue: Auditorium of the National Museum for Science and Technology. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown: A joint meeting with the Rotaract Club of Dhaka Midtown and installation ceremony of office-bearers of Midtown Rotaractors will be held. Venue: Russian cultural centre, Rd 7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Post and Telecommunications.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: The regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Shyamoli-Dhaka: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Padma Travels Ltd, 55-56, Motijheel C/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: The weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 6:00 pm.

Budget discussion in JS continues

The Treasury bench lawmakers described the proposed national budget as a budget aiming at poverty alleviation, employment generation and development of agriculture during the discussion on it in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

The Opposition lawmakers considered this budget as a stereotyped and lacking any perspective for the country to step into the new century.

A total of 13 members took part in the budget deliberation which lasted about six hours.

The House witnessed heated exchange between Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and Deputy Leader of Opposition Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury over the demand for a debate on the Dhaka University campus situation.

The Law Commission Bill, earlier tabled in the House, was sent to the Special Committee yesterday at the request of State Minister for Law and Justice Abdul Matin Khasru. The special committee was given three days' time to report back to the House.

State Minister for Information Professor Abu Sayeed presented Bangladesh Press Council Annual Report 1995 in the House.

Earlier, when the House re-assembled at 3:37 pm with Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid in the chair, it saw the disposal of two call attention notices on setting up a new 210 megawatt power station at Goalpara in Khulna and repairing a cross dam on river Meghna in Bhola.

State Minister for Land Haji

Rashed Mosharrar, Sultan Md Mansur, Altaf Hossain Golondaz, Syeda Jebunnesa Haq, Shaheen Monwara Huq and Syed Ashrafur Islam from Awami League took part in the deliberations on budget.

Opposition BNP members included Alamgir Kabir, Mahbubur Rahman, Khairul Anam and Nurul Amin Talukder.

Jatiya Party members G M Kader and Ahsan Ahmed and Jamaat leader Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee participated in the debate on national budget.

Speaker Humayun Rashed Chowdhury adjourned the sitting of the House at 10:19 pm yesterday to reassemble at 3 pm today.

Tk 158.78 cr loss incurred by rly sector in '95-96

Bangladesh received Tk 2,196.60 crore as foreign loan and aid in last 10 years (1986-96) for the construction of roads, reports UNB.

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju stated this yesterday in the Parliament while replying to Prof Mohammad Ali Ashraf (Comilla-6).

In reply to Alamgir Kabir (BNP), Manju said the railway sector incurred a loss of Tk 158.78 crore in 1995-96 fiscal year.

The minister told the House replying to A B M Abul Kashem (Ctg-2), that the government has no plan to reopen the golden handshake programme in the railway sector.

Habibur Rahman for separation of judiciary

RAJSHAHI, Aug 20: Former chief adviser of the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman today underscored the importance for establishing the rule of law in society as it would help consolidate democracy in the country, reports BSS.

He emphasised the need for complete separation of the judiciary from the executive and said that it would not be possible to establish the rule of law without independence of the judiciary.

Justice Habibur Rahman said this while presenting the keynote paper at the Dr Zohar Memorial Lecture on "Rule of Law and Independence of Judiciary," organised by the Chemistry Department of Rajshahi University at the Kazi Nazrul Islam auditorium here this morning.

Presided over by Prof Omar Ali, chairman of the Chemistry Department, the function was also addressed among others by Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof M Yusuf Ali.

A large number of teachers and students were present on the occasion.

Earlier, Justice Rahman paid rich tribute to Dr Zohar, who was a teacher of the Chemistry Department and brutally killed by the Pakistani army during mass upsurge on February 18, 1969 near the university campus.

Justice Rahman said that the rule of law could not be implemented in society without the minimum support and co-operation between the rulers and the masses. Rule of law is the unavoidable source and prerequisite of democracy, he added.

Muktijuddha Rajat Joyntee Uddapan Parishad meet

A meeting of the Muktijuddha-O-Shwadinatar Rajat Joyntee Uddapan Parishad (Council for Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Liberation War and Independence) will be held August 23 at 5 pm at its Dhanmondi office, says a press release.

The Parishad's co-chairman Gazul Haq has requested all members of the Parishad to attend on time.

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Name of Proprietor : Fariduddin Khan
Name of Agency : M/s. Majal Development Corporation (BD)
Address : DIT Annexe 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

S-450

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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	
	Max	Min	Mor		Eve
Dhaka	29.6	26.0	92		92
Chittagong	29.6	24.0	82		90
Rajshahi	31.5	25.0	86		96
Khulna	26.8	25.4	94		91
Barisal	26.5	23.5	100		93
Sylhet	30.2	24.2	87		86
Cox's Bazar	28.2	23.5			95