

'Plant more saplings to protect environment'

UNB, Dhaka
Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj has called upon the people of all strata to plant more saplings to save the country as well as future generation from natural calamity.
He was inaugurating a tree

plantation programme organised by the Ramna Probbati, an organisation of the morning walkers, at Ramna Park yesterday.
Chaired by Ramna Probbati President Lt Col (ret'd) Anisuzzaman, the function was attended, among others, by noted environ-

mentalist Prof Abdullah Abu Sayed.
To contain air pollution, a ban on all types of two-stroke three-wheelers has been imposed and it has been made mandatory for all vehicles to have catalytic converter or diesel particulate filter.

Money spent a day on smoking can buy 1402 calories

BSS, Dhaka

Rice or other food items containing 1402 calories can be bought for the money spent by a male smoker in Bangladesh on smoking daily.

In the same way, a female smoker can buy additional food containing 770 calories daily, if she gives up smoking.

This was revealed in the current issue of a research journal of Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS).

A research article, titled "Production and Consumption of Tobacco: An Economic Study" by BIDS Research Associate Zulfikar Ali, says the number of smokers has dropped a little in Bangladesh in recent time.

The trend, however, is absent among the poor.

Although the number of cigarette smokers has reduced, the number of bidi smokers is soaring, the article says, adding that the production of cigarette in the country at present rose by 40 per

cent compared to the years 1988-99, while the production of bidi went up by 295 per cent.

The percentage of smokers in the country dropped to 23 at present from 25.2 in 1995-96. The rate, however, is higher in men compared to women. Forty-one per cent of the male population is smokers compared to only four per cent of the female population, the BIDS article says.

The rate of smokers is the highest both among men and women aged above 35 years. Smokers are not only spending a portion of their income, but also being afflicted with different diseases related to smoking.

The diseases include cancer, ulcer, kidney ailments, asthma, high blood pressure and heart disease, according to the article.

The research article suggests that raising taxes and duties, stopping ads and banning tobacco items can be the steps to halt smoking in the countries of moderate and low income.

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