

NO TOBACCO DAY ON MAY 31

'Govt indifferent to enforcement of law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference said the anti-tobacco law has not been enforced yet mainly for indifference and neglect of the health ministry and law enforcement agencies.

Though the government enacted 'The Bangladesh Tobacco Products Usage and Control Act 2005' but the health ministry took little initiative for its enforcement, they added.

Regretting that no vigilance team or even anti-smoking posters are seen anywhere, Dr Nurul Islam, National Professor and Founder President of Adhunik, a movement to resist smoking, urged the government to launch anti-tobacco drive by forming mobile court.

Adhunik, University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC),

Students' Anti-smoking Committee (SASC), Coalition Against Tobacco (CAT) and Life jointly organised the press conference ahead of the World No Tobacco Day 2006 on May 31 at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

"The health ministry has formulated a regulation saying the act could not be enforced without the approval of the regulation which is now lying in the law ministry," said Amanullah Khan, Founder President of CAT and also chairman of news agency UNB, adding that a regulation is not a must if the health ministry is willing to enforce the act.

The speakers also urged the government to broadcast and publish anti-tobacco advertisements in the media to raise awareness among people and called people to gear up

anti-tobacco movement.

Tobacco takes lives of nearly 40 lakh people every year in the world. Among the victims, 47 per cent is male and 12 is female.

The speakers also criticised the health ministry for not including the organisations working for anti-smoking movement for the last few years into the World No Tobacco Day Observance Committee and announced that they would observe the day individually.

Life Chairman Kamrul Islam Sony, Coordinator Amirul Islam, SASC President Ali Neyamat, Editor of Tobacco News Al Islam and Executive Secretary of Adhunik MA Jabbar were also present.



PHOTO: STAR

Syed Marghub Morshed, former BTRC chairman, speaks at a press conference organised by Society for Bangladesh Development Strategy at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Kazi Fazlur Rahman and Dr Md Osman Gani.

Govt staffs demand 50 percent DA

3rd class, 4th class employees threaten movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Third and fourth class government employees yesterday placed their five-point demand, including 50 percent dearness allowance and fixing of minimum payscale at Tk2000.

They also threatened to launch a tougher movement if the government does not take any step in this regard while preparing the budget for the next fiscal.

Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Dabi Bastobayan Parishad, a platform of government employees for realisation of their demands, placed the demands at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

The Parishad leaders also demanded review of the current pay structure, saying that the salary for third and fourth class employees is too

inadequate as prices of essentials have skyrocketed.

Although the government claims that the salary under new pay scale has increased 53 percent, the actual increase is only 15 to 25 percent in most cases, they said.

They also called for extension of their service age to 60 years.

The other demands included elimination of discrimination in the pay scale, immediate appointment to all vacant posts and regularisation of the officials engaged in development projects.

Secretary General of the Parishad Md Shahabuddin read out a written statement at the press conference. Parishad President Harun or Rashid, President of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Sanghati Parishad Md Abul Hashem Miah were also present.

One found dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of a youth from the city's Tipu Sultan road area yesterday afternoon.

Md Shafiq, 26, a resident of Lal Mohan Shah street in Sutrapur, known as a drug addict and mugger to his neighbours, was found dead beside the street with injuries on his head.

Sutrapur Police or locals could not say anything about how Shafiq died.

Wasa installs complaint boxes in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has installed complaint boxes at the gate no 2 of Bangladesh Secretariat and Dania Ideal High School Road in Shanir Akhra to receive complaints from its consumers about water supply, says a press release.

Similar complaint boxes would be installed at different zonal offices of Dhaka City Corporation soon.

The press release has urged consumers to drop their complaints at the boxes so that the authorities can take quick action to resolve them.