

'Enforce tobacco control law strictly'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Madakdrabya O Neshanirodhak Sangstha (Manash), a voluntary organisation, yesterday urged the caretaker government to take steps to strictly enforce the tobacco control law.

It also called for launching a drive to control production, use and advertisement of tobacco products.

Two years have passed after the enactment of tobacco control law, but no steps have been taken to enforce it properly, Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury, founding president of Manash, said at a press conference.

Still many people smoke in public places in violation of the law, he added.

He said 98 percent of drug addicts started taking drugs after they had become addicted to smoking and gradually they got addicted to stronger items such as heroin and phensidyl.

He also said most retail shops across the country have signboards with advertisements of cigarettes, but the law enforcement agencies remain indifferent

to such illegal activities.

He demanded that the caretaker government launch an anti-tobacco drive similar to the drive against food adulteration.

Manash Vice-president actress Anjana, Joint General Secretary singer Ferdous Wahid and Treasurer Jahana Rashid also spoke at the press conference.



PHOTO: PID

UNDP Representative and Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Bangladesh Renata Lok Dessallien calls on Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

BMA BHABAN Graft case against Rajuk chairman, engr

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One of the owners of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) Bhaban filed a graft case against Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha (Rajuk) chairman and one of its engineers with a Dhaka court yesterday.

BMA owner Nazim Habibu-zzaman filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court against Rajuk Chairman KM Harun Ur Rashid and Engineer Mohammad Muzaffar Uddin for taking Tk 1 crore as bribe from the land grabbers.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah did not pass any order on the issue.

In his complaint, Habibu-zzaman mentioned that a group of miscreants took possession of 66 decimal land illegally at 15/2 Topkhana Road in 1979 while the complainant along with their family members was abroad and later they built a building on it without any approval from the Rajuk and hung a signboard of BMA there.

Following the incident, Rajuk sent a letter to the intruders asking them to show sketch map about the construction of the building. But Rajuk did not take any step for demolishing the BMA Bhaban though the grabbers fail to show any map in this regard, the complainant said.

Later, Rajuk decided to conduct a drive to demolish the BMA Bhaban following an application by the complainant on February 1 this year. On February 7, Rajuk conducted a drive for demolishing illegal constructions from Shapla Chatter to Press Club, but did not touch it as the chairman and the engineer took Tk 1 crore as bribe from the intruders, Habibuzzaman alleged.

NDC team visits Armed Forces Div

Bss, Dhaka

A 39-member National Defence College (NDC) team led by its Commandant Major General Abu Tayeb Muhammad Zahirul Alam visited Armed Forces Division at Dhaka Cantonment as part of their Course Curriculum yesterday.

The NDC team included 17 overseas and nine senior government officers.



PHOTO: STAR

Fire fighters try to extinguish a fire at a garment factory of Majumder Group at Panchabati in Fatullah, Narayanganj, yesterday.

Dhaka welcomes Hamas-Fatah peace deal

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday welcomed the peace agreement signed recently between Hamas and Al-Fatah groups in Palestine, hoping that the deal would stop the conflict between the two groups.

"We also hope the agreement in Makkah will revive the peace process" in the Middle East, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftexhar Ahmed Chowdhury told reporters at his office.

He congratulated Saudi King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for his significant contribution to the signing of the agreement.

Asked about Israel's new construction alongside the holy Al Aqsa Mosque, the Advisor said Bangladesh wants Israel to stop the excavation immediately as the Israeli move might obstruct the peace talks in the light of the Makkah agreement.