

Bangladesh likely to face serious tobacco epidemic

Reveals survey

BSS, Dhaka
The country is likely to face a serious tobacco epidemic, according to a recent survey that reveals 23 percent of the adults above 15 years of age smoke.
The Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)-2009 available yesterday said an estimated 21.9 million adults, including 21.2 million males and 0.7 million females, are smokers in the country.
The smoking rate in rural areas is slightly higher than that of urban areas, where people prefer to have cigars than bidis, a locally-made cigar, that contains much nicotine but do not have any filter, said Non-Communicable Disease Forum (NCD-F) on the eve of the Tobacco Week that begins today and

ends on January 30.
Among all the adults, nearly half of them are exposed to second hand smoking (SHS) at public places such as restaurants and public transportations, two major common places of smoking in Bangladesh, that is home to 150 million people.
Among the persons engaged in indoor work, 11.5 million smokers and 5.1 million non-smokers are exposed to the SHS.
It is estimated that in Bangladesh the total expenditure on cigarettes is 1.0 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), while bidis account for 0.4 percent.
The price of 100 packets of manufactured cigarettes as a percentage of per capita GDP is 5 percent and the price of

100 packets of bidis as a percentage of per capita GDP is 1 percent, the study said.
Fighting the tobacco in the country will require a strong commitment to the World Health Organisation's strategies that include continued monitoring of tobacco uses and strengthening prevention policies, protecting people from secondhand smoking, offering help to those who want to quit and warn people about the dangers of tobacco.
The other areas that need to be addressed to control tobacco uses are: enforcing bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, raising taxes on tobacco products, enacting and enforcing strong anti-smoking laws, and preventing and countering the advertising tactics of tobacco companies.



Students of Tiny Tots School, junior section of Summerfield, take part in an art competition on the school premises at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday. The event was organised on the occasion of the 36th anniversary of the school.

TEXTBOOK DISTRIBUTION Nahid warns of punitive actions for irregularities

UNB, Dhaka
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday warned that punitive actions would be taken against those involved in irregularities in textbook distribution.
"Irregularities in textbook distribution have been observed in several places, including the capital," the minister said while addressing a function at the city's Siddheshwari Girls' College.
Nahid stressed the need for ensuring the standard of education in all government educational institutions, as the government is working for building an illiteracy-free Bangladesh.
The education minister sought cooperation from all in implementing the modern education policy to ensure the standard of education.

Reckless driving amid fog costs 18 lives in 3 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reckless driving by truck drivers amid late night's dense fog and absence of traffic police on roads cost the lives of around 18 people in and around the city over the last three days.
Most of the road accidents took place during the time between 2:30am and 6:00am.
Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) sources said at least 18 people were killed in seven road accidents in the city from Wednesday to Friday.
Selim Mohammad Jahangir, deputy commissioner (traffic) of DMP, said: "Traffic police are not deployed on roads from 2:30am to 6:30am. Taking the chance, truck drivers become

very desperate and intend to overtake while driving, causing frequent road accidents."
Dhaka Met Office sources said the city witnessed very dense fog on January 20, 21 and 22 during late nights that persisted until early mornings.
Police said four people, including three of a family, died when a truck rammed into their private car at Jatrabari around 6:00am on January 20, three people died in another accident around 2:30am on the same day while a truck hit a pushcart on the highway crossing at Khilkhet.
Another boy was killed in a road crash around 6:30am the same day at Mandi in Sabujbagh. On January 21, a woman and her daughter died being crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Gabtoli Sweeper Colony

while two people met the same fate the following day near Sheraton intersection at Shahbagh.
In another incident at Farmgate, a devotee of the ongoing Bishwa Jtama was run over by a truck around 2:30am while a woman died in another road accident at Shyampur the same day.
As traffic personnel remained absent during late nights, the truck drivers become reckless causing frequent accidents, city dwellers alleged.
DMP sources said after 11:00pm traffic personnel were withdrawn from almost every intersection except some key points where some traffic sergeants were deployed.
Traffic personnel are deployed from 3:30am to 11:00pm, the sources added.

Attack on rights activist condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday strongly condemned the attack on Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Indigenous People's Forum, said a press release.
They also demanded punishment to the criminals who attacked Sanjeeb, a rights activist, at Rannikhong in Netrokona on Friday when he was returning from Birishiri area. He sustained injuries in his hands.
Leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Indigenous Students Action Forum also brought out a procession on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday demanding arrest of the attackers and exemplary punishment to them.
They also threatened to wage a tough movement if the culprits could not be arrested immediately, said a press release.
Meanwhile, Leaders of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement yesterday demanded punishment to the criminals who attacked Kotchandpur Sweeper Colony at Jhenaidah on January 15 and 16, leaving 50 people injured.
They said that the attackers looted and vandalised at least 100 houses.

SERVICES OF SKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANTS Distance, expenses main obstacles to achieving goal in rural areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Services of Skilled Birth Attendants (SBA) during delivery of babies are more accessible in urban areas than rural areas in the country, revealed a survey report.
The Asia Foundation has recently conducted the survey in 26 parliamentary constituencies on the status of achieving the goals of MDGs. It disclosed the survey findings at a programme styled 'Sharing session on Millennium Development Goals guide for parliamentarians' at the Oath room of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.
Only 6.6 percent mothers get care of SBAs during delivery of babies in Kishorganj-4 parliamentary constituency while the percentage is 66.1 in Rajshahi-2, according to a survey conducted recently. Kishorganj-4 constituency is composed of haor area while Rajshahi-2 Rajshahi

cityarea.
The scenario in rural areas of some other constituencies where the Asia Foundation has recently conducted the survey is also poor. According to the survey, the percentage in Hobiganj-1 is 11.5, in Kishorganj-6 is 13.6, in Sunamganj-3 is 18.1, and in Rangapur-1 is 21.4.
The urban areas show a comparatively better situation with a healthy percentage. In Khulna-2 constituency 61.6 percent mother get care of SBA during delivery of babies and 42.7 percent in Dhaka-9.
"Most mothers in rural areas like to be attended by SBA during delivery. But distance from health centres and expenses involved in obtaining services of SBA are the two key reasons for not availing such service," the survey revealed.

Bringing skilled medical assistance closer to the doorstep of pregnant mothers through increase of the coverage of public health programmes particularly in remote areas such as haor and char areas would appear to be needed," it said.
The survey also described the poor state of sanitation facilities in rural areas of the parliamentary seats and lack of employment facilities.
Speaking as the chief guest Speaker Abdul Hamid said effective mechanism has yet to be built to monitor the goals of MDGs. "Perhaps, we don't have information on the current status of achieving the MDGs in our constituencies," Hamid added, who was elected from Kishorganj-4.
Twelve lawmakers joined the programme and they stressed the need for pragmatic efforts to expedite the progress of achieving the MDGs.

International Development NGO seeks Bangladesh staff for EU funded project implemented by two partner organisations

Project Coordinator
DanChurchAid South Asia is looking for a Project Coordinator (PC) who will provide support and guidance to two partner organization to ensure excellent and timely implementation of an EU funded project. The project focuses on mobilising and organising of migrant workers in Bangladesh. The PC will be based in Dhaka and will work closely with the partner organizations, who are responsible for implementation of the project.

The PC must have solid experience in working with back-donor funded projects from a management position. S/he must have excellent skills in providing support for organisational development, strategic planning, project monitoring and evaluation, facilitation, problem analysis and solution finding as well as report writing for EU. The PC will be participating in regular monitoring field visits together with implementing partners.

Applicants for the job must have the following qualifications: a postgraduate degree in development or social work with specialisation in monitoring and evaluation. The applicant must have excellent writing skills in English and have Bengali as mother tongue. The candidate must have minimum 5-7 years field experience from rural areas and have a minimum of 5 years of experience from INGO with similar responsibilities of managing back donor funded projects from a senior position. Documented experience and knowledge of rights based approach to development and skills in advocacy are a prerequisite. The person must have proven skills of working with the Government. Understanding of gender issues and migration would be an asset. The position requires strong analytical, facilitation, communication and writing skills as well as fluency in written and spoken English.

The candidate must have personal commitment to social equity and equal rights. DCA Regional Office needs people with high level of commitment to work, excellent interpersonal communication skills and a good sense of humour. Willingness and ability to travel and be flexible is essential.

Candidates should send their applications to dca.bd.office@gmail.com by 31st of January, 2010. Candidates will be invited for an interview in Dhaka on 1st week of March, 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

DanChurchAid is an independent Danish faith-based organisation working on humanitarian; rights based development; emergency response, information and advocacy in partnership with national faith and rights based organisations. DCA is committed to promoting equal opportunities for women and men from different caste, ethnic and religious backgrounds and encourages candidates of diverse backgrounds to apply for all our positions.

For information about DCA please visit www.danchurchaid.org.

Marie Curie School marks Foundation Day

METRO DESK

Marie Curie School celebrated its 16th Foundation Day amid festivity on Thursday, says a press release.
Chairperson of the school governing body, Prof Dr. M Shamsheer Ali, inaugurated the programme on the school premises at Dhanmondi in the city by cutting a huge cake.
He also launched the school magazine 'Splendour-3'.
Students celebrated the day singing the school song and reciting poems written by them.
Principal Saqeba Ali, Vice Principal Jilun Nahar Chowdhury and other teachers attended the programme.

Death of Sayeed Ahmed condoled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Meghna Ameen, founder chairperson of Sarva Sree Foundation, yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of noted playwright and art scholar Sayeed Ahmed, says a press release.
Ahmed was a member of the advisory committee of this carnatic music organisation, added the press release.

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Uttara	Eskaton	Bakshi Bazar
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Corporate Office :
House No. 35, Road No. 9/A (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
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E-mail : info@navana-realestate.com

Gulshan Office :
House No. 16/B, Road No. 93, Gulshan 2, Dhaka.
Tel : 880-2-881 5305 (Hunting)
Fax : 880-2-881 5195
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ফ্ল্যাট-এর চাবি রেডি

রূপায়ণ টাউনের বাসিন্দা
ডি. ডি. নাথান (বিদেশী নাগরিক)
নির্বাধী পরিচালক
দি মাষ্ট অরগানাইজেশন

রূপায়ণ টাউন একটি স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ স্যাটেলাইট সিটি হিসেবে গড়ে উঠেছে। আমি বসবাসের জন্য রূপায়ণ টাউনকে বেছে নিয়েছি কেননা এর নতুনতরঙ্গ সার্বজনের সমারোহ এবং উপযুক্ত নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা আমাকে মুগ্ধ করেছে...

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মতিঝিল থেকে ১০ মিনিটের দূরত্বে, ঢাকা-নারায়ণগঞ্জ শিল্প রোড সংলগ্ন কুইনগেডে অল্পসংখ্যক রেডি ফ্ল্যাট ও দোকান নিয়ে আপনার অপেক্ষায় রূপায়ণ টাউন

কল করুন: ০১১৯৮০১২০০০, ০১১৯৮০১২০০১, ০১১৯৮০১২০০২, ০১১৯৮০১২০০৩, ০১১৯৮০১২০০৪, ০১১৯৮০১২০০৫, ০১১৯৮০১২০০৬, ০১১৯৮০১২০০৭

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