

Smoking kills 2.5 lakh a year in Bangladesh

Manas seminar told citing WHO report
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every year 2.5 lakh Bangladeshis die due to tobacco and the rate of death is 28 per hour, according to a report of World Health Organization (WHO) that was presented in a seminar yesterday.

Forty two percent of the country's men are addicted to tobacco while 78.8 percent of the male slum dwellers in Dhaka and its adjacent areas are tobacco smokers, the report added.

Ninety five percent of the total drug addicts of the country smoke tobacco while in last five years the number of smokers has increased by 25 lakh, it added.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, who was the chief guest of the seminar, said the government has enacted the tobacco control law and is working to stop tobacco cultivation in the country.

The minister also assured of promoting anti drug and tobacco advertisements at all TV channels.

Justice ABM Khairul Haque, chairman of Bangladesh Law Commission, emphasised that the act has no provision for monitoring the agencies which are assigned to implement the act.

Addiction starts with smoking and tobacco is more addictive than heroin or cocaine, so the habit should be kicked, said Arup Ratan Choudhury, founder president of Madok Drrabbo O Nesha Nerodh Sangstha (Manas) which organised the seminar at Jatiya Press Club.

DU 49th convocation today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The 49th convocation of Dhaka University, the biggest programme to confer degrees, will be held at the university's central playground today.

Around 6,104 students, including 3,367 female students, are expected to collect their certificates for their successful completion of studies from the university.

Francis Gurry, director general of World Intellectual Property Organisation, and President and Chancellor of the university Abdul Hamid are expected to grace the programme.

The university will also confer an honorary doctorate of Law degree on Francis for his contribution to the respective field.

Meanwhile, pro BNP-Jamaat white panel teachers announced to boycott the convocation bringing allegation of "gross anomalies and one party attitude of the university authority."

In a press release, they added that the decision was taken also because of current political unrest and absence of peaceful coexistence on DU campus.



Young revellers in Holi, the Hindu festival of colour, in Chittagong city, snapped last spring by the second runner-up in the Festival category of The Daily Star's photo contest inPixel.

PHOTO: MD JAHED CHOWDHURY



Chashi Nazrul laid to rest

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

Eminent director of the iconic film Ora Egaro Jon (1972) Chashi Nazrul was laid to rest in his family graveyard at a Shomoshpur village under Munshiganj's Srinagar upazila yesterday afternoon.

Hundreds paid their respects at the last namaz-e-ajanaza in the Shomoshpur High School field. Earlier, the body was kept on the capital's Film Development Corporation premises.

Son of Mosleh Uddin Khan and Shayesta Khanom, the valiant freedom fighter was born at Shomoshpur on October 23, 1941, the eldest among four brothers and three sisters.

He passed away early Sunday in the capital's LabAid hospital at the age of 73. Suffering long from cancer, he had been on life support for about 20 hours before breathing his last.

Do hartal, violence go with Islam?

War crimes tribunal asks Jamaat counsel over the party's enforcing shutdown after verdicts against its leaders; serves show-cause notice to another counsel, five Jamaat-Shibir leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday asked a defence counsel for Jamaat-e-Islami leaders to explain whether violent programmes or hartal were congruent with the spirit of Islam or sunnah, the way of life prescribed by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

"Enlighten us. To what extent is the

spirit of Islam compatible with making a third party [common people] suffer?" Tribunal Chairman Justice M Enayetur Rahim asked Shishir Manir after issuing a show-cause notice.

The defence counsel was asked to give a reply on January 28 along with answers to the show-cause notice against Jamaat lawyer Tajul Islam and five leaders of Jamaat and Islami

Chhatra Shibir for their media statements after the verdict of war crimes convict ATM Azharul Islam, allegedly demeaning the court.

Jamaat enforces hartal after every war crimes verdict against its leaders, and on several occasions, Jamaat and Shibir men perpetuated violence. So far, eight Jamaat top leaders have been

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'Extortionist cop' shoots trader in capital

Claims family; police say shooting was accidental

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sub-inspector of Dakkhin Khan Police Station yesterday allegedly shot a trader in the capital for Tk 1 lakh, while police claimed that the victim was a picketer and was accidentally shot during a scuffle.

Fayez Ali, 50, a construction materials trader and owner of Nipu Enterprise, according to his family, is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital under police custody for bullet injuries in the hip.

Victim's wife Rehana Fayez said Fayez went to the construction site in Madhya Azampur around 7:30am with over Tk 1 lakh to pay due bills of labourers and construction materials.

"A team of police led by Sub-inspector Jaynal Abedin went there and wanted the money. As Fayez refused, Jaynal shot Fayez at point-blank

range," she quoted her husband as saying.

Rehana's elder sister Firoza Yeasmin, who claimed herself as president of the Uttar Khan unit of Mohila Awami League, said, "All our family members support Awami League. Police shot Fayez as he refused to pay the extortion money that the SI demanded. Now police are making false statements to cover up their misdeed."

Shamimur Rashid Taklukdar, officer-in-charge of Dakkhin Khan Police Station, said the SI with two more cops caught Fayez while he was trying to carry out violence on the rail tracks but his accomplices besieging the law enforcers tried to seize their firearms when the "accidental shooting" took place. SI Jaynal, who could not be contacted, sued Fayez, the injured man, and six others. Locals demonstrated against the shooting.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina waves at a rally Awami League organised in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday marking Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's homecoming day.

PHOTO: BSS

Counterfeit drug factory busted

Owner, manager jailed; 4 other staff fined; factory sealed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court backed by Rab busted a fake antibiotic manufacturing factory and jailed its owner and production manager for two years each in the capital's Mirpur yesterday.

It also fined owner Sanjay Baroi Tk 2 lakh and production manager Kawsar Tk 1 lakh directing the authorities concerned to lodge a case against them.

The factory, Shed Pharmaceuticals (Av) Ltd, was manufacturing fake Zimax 500mg tablets of Square Pharmaceuticals over the last two years.

The court seized around one lakh pieces of Zimax tablets and one mould. It sealed off the factory and also fined four other employees -- Saiful Islam, Asim Halder, Mofazzal Khandakar and Dasharat Modhu -- Tk 1 lakh each.

The factory has a licence for producing Ayurvedic medicines but it was manufacturing Allopathic drugs of reputed companies, said Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha who led the drive. The factory so far had supplied around three lakh pieces of Zimax tablets to the market, he added.

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28H4100	New Arrival	30,990
32EH4003	39,500	35,900
32H4100	45,990	38,800
32H4500	56,000	52,000
32H5500	59,500	56,000
40EH5000	63,500	57,500

MODEL	CURRENT MRP (Tk.)	NEW MRP (Tk.)
40H5100	68,500	61,500
40H5500	96,900	71,000
40H6400	127,000	99,000
48H5500	139,000	109,000
48H6400	175,000	160,000
55H6400	269,000	199,000
60H6400	299,000	265,000

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