

# DO'S AND DON'TS TO STAY GREEN



## Don't do that illegal thing we all do:

Using polythene bags. That harmless polythene bag ubiquitously handed to you by grocers everywhere was banned 15 years ago and what you are doing might essentially make you complicit in a crime. Contrary to claims by polybag manufacturers, not all the polythene that gets into the system is recycled. A large portion is dumped into the sewage system, the most vivid example of which are our water bodies. Leave alone the fact that the 13 major canals of Dhaka city have shrunk down to glorified drains, and our rivers now look like—well—glorified canals.



## Don't stick to this annoying habit that has bigger consequences:

Littering. Does installing more trashcans stop littering? The answer is no. Most streets in Dhanmondi have trashcans on every single street block and the place still looks like a dump. Not littering is a choice – so is carrying your trash with you, until the next convenient disposal location. To put into perspective, one could be walking along the protected Sundarban areas of the Karamjal Forest Station and still find empty chips packets lying around. Jokes aside, our littering problem is so ingrained that the Department of Environment had to serve notices to 20 hotels in Cox's Bazar for dumping their wastes onto the beach, and blocking the roots of the mangrove plants local to the area. For littering at least, change begins at home.

## Do... switch to that greener alternative:

Solar Power. Some of our poorest are already doing it, especially those living in places not served by the grid yet. Of course, non-governmental organisations played a huge role in subsidising the expansion of solar power among the lower-income people, but changes on a personal level can start small. Experts agree that it is not yet possible to



completely phase out fossil-fuels, but using solar power to charge cell phones and computers for home use shows initiative. Good news: the government okayed a proposal to set up four solar power plants producing 258 megawatts last March. The plants will be in Tangail, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Panchagarh, meaning the people living there can use guilt-free electricity.

## Do... know your food:

Shrimp malai-curry. Fish dopiaza. The global demand for our delicious shrimp has already destroyed the southern belt of Bangladesh. Over the years, the lucrative trade has weeded out the smallest farmers in favour of an oligarchy. The salt-water production of shrimp has meant that the soil is too saline for redemption. It has to be



acknowledged, however, that this too was brought on by climate-change induced soil salinity as an alternative form of agriculture. On the other hand, creeping salinity has also meant saltwater encroachment further upstream, thereby threatening freshwater fish populations. As a result, fishermen end up spraying pesticides (like Ripcord) over large swathes of a water-body effectively killing anything and everything. Made illegal by the government, this is nevertheless a common scenario in the Southern parts of the country.



## Don't... just accept the status quo:

Ask before consuming. Is the sand being used for the construction of your home illegally dredged from a river? Is carpooling going to help save gas? Is the timber being used to make your furniture from illegal logging? Is your hospital disposing of needles properly?

— STAR WEEKEND DESK

## Sandalina

মান্নেই বিশ্বের সেবা  
Sandal Wood Extract এর সর্বোচ্চ নিশ্চয়তা...

# স্যান্ডালিনা

## সোপ

স্যান্ডালিনা স্যান্ডাল সোপ এখন স্যান্ডাল এন্ড ময়েচারাইজার সমৃদ্ধ

নতুন রূপে খাঁটি চন্দন ও গার্ডেন ফ্রেশ গোলাপের সুগন্ধে স্যান্ডাল এন্ড রোজ

রূপচর্চায় আন্ডিজাস্ত...

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