

# Tobacco sale rampant near schools and playgrounds

## Ahsania Mission finds in study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sale of tobacco products near schools and playgrounds is continuing in full swing in different parts of the country, mostly to attract children to consume those, finds a recent study.

The government prohibited selling tobacco products, such as cigarette, bidi and gul, to persons under 18 and set a target to make Bangladesh tobacco-free by 2040, but allowing such an activity will hinder the progress, it added.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission in association with Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, an international anti-tobacco organisation, conducted the study in 12 districts, including all divisional cities, in December 2017.

The findings of the study titled "Big Tobacco Tiny Target in Bangladesh" were unveiled at a discussion held at the Mission's office in the capital yesterday.

After surveying 180 locations -- including 157 schools and 23 playgrounds in those districts -- the study identified 673 spots within 100 metres of those locations where tobacco products [both smoking and smokeless] were being sold.

Of those sales points, more than 82 percent displayed advertisements of the products through stickers, empty packets, and posters -- violating existing laws.

More than half of the sales points were set up adjacent to products that are popular among children, such as candy, chocolate, and toys, said the report.

Besides, tobacco companies often give discounts and offer gifts for buying their products, which further attracts children, it added.

As selling tobacco products near schools and playgrounds is not banned according to the tobacco control act, the study suggested that the government amend the law for children's wellbeing.

Asked about the delay in publishing the study report, Mokhlesur Rahman, one of the lead researchers, said the data they collected was verified multiple times and it was analysed by the Campaign authorities, causing the delay.

"We revisited some of the locations this year and found almost the same situation in most of the cases," said Mokhlesur, also an assistant director of Ahsania Mission.

Speaking as the chief guest at the discussion, Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, deputy minister for education, assured that they will take necessary steps to stop selling tobacco products adjacent to educational institutions.

# SIX YEARS OF RANA PLAZA TRAGEDY

# Survivors still in trauma

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Nilufar Begum, 35, a survivor of Rana Plaza tragedy, worked on the fifth floor of the building. Her right leg was severely injured in the incident. Six years have passed since the building collapsed, but she is still living in trauma.

She received long term treatment at several hospitals of the country, but says her health has not improved. "Not only was my right leg broken, I also sustained injuries in my head and back. The pain still hasn't receded," she said, adding that she was stuck for nine hours before being rescued.

Nilufar received Tk 3 lakh from several organisations after the tragedy, which was spent on initial treatment. "I am barely surviving now," she said, "Doctors have advised me to amputate my right leg. They said it will ease my suffering but I am already spending over Tk 5,000 on medicine every month. I have sold all of my property, including my house, for medical treatment."

Nilufar cannot work outside anymore, and requires assistance for all types of movement.

Many survivors of Rana Plaza tragedy are living in despair. This correspondent spoke to ten survivors, all of whom echoed Nilufar's sentiments.

Nilufa Yasmin, 40, another survivor who worked on the fourth floor of the building, said, "I was rescued after two days. My head, legs, and backbone were heavily injured. Despite treatment at different hospitals with aid from several organisations, I am still suffering from chronic back pain and headache."

"I don't know how to support my six-member family. My husband is a rickshaw-puller and sole earning



Mahmudul Hasan Hridoy, 32, a survivor of Rana Plaza tragedy, is on a hunger strike in front of the accident site with an 11-point demand. Inset, plants have taken over the swamp where Rana Plaza once stood.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



member. It is difficult for us to bear my treatment cost. Moreover, I have two school-going daughters," she said, adding that it would be helpful if the government arranged financial aid for survivors.

### VICTIM FAMILIES DEMAND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Talking to The Daily Star, Rahela Khatun, 70, mother of Fozle Rabbi, who lost his life in the accident, said, "I lost my son but I am unsure

if I will ever get justice."

Abdul Aziz, 65, who lost his son and daughter-in-law in the tragedy, now runs a tea stall at Savar's Arapara area. "If my son was alive, he would look after me. But he is no more, and justice has not been served," he said, "I would find peace of mind if the accused was handed capital punishment."

Khairul Mamun Mintu, organising secretary of Garment

Worker Trade Union Centre, said the government should take steps to ensure quick trial and appropriate punishment for culprits. "The authorities concerned should also arrange lifetime treatment for injured survivors," he added.

Rana Plaza collapse was the deadliest garments factory accident in Bangladesh's history, in which 1,129 workers lost their lives and thousands were injured.

# Rangpur OC accused of humiliating female ward councillor

## Probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police formed a probe committee yesterday after an officer allegedly humiliated a female ward councillor in Rangpur.

The two-member committee headed by Rangpur Metropolitan Police Additional Deputy Commissioner Shamima Parvin was asked to submit its report as early as possible, official sources said.

Altaf Hossain, assistant commissioner of metropolitan police, is another member of the probe body.

On Friday, the female ward councillor who felt embarrassed as OC Rezaul Karim talked about her appearance in an inappropriate way when she went to Kotwali Police Station to inquire about a rape case, said her fellows.

Later, she informed the incident to the city mayor and other ward councillors on Sunday.

All the councillors led by Mayor Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa met Police Commissioner Abdul Alim Mahmud on that day and demanded exemplary punishment for the OC.

OC Rezaul Karim did not respond to phone calls from this correspondent. However, his colleagues said he had been on leave since Monday.

# Two bills

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are passed in parliament, security of journalists, including job security, will be protected.

Millions of taka are being laundered through advertisements in foreign channels, creating a financial crisis in domestic channels, Hasan said, adding that it has created problems in paying salaries to journalists.

In many cases, news sections are being shut down, the minister said, adding that none of this would have happened if advertisements were not given to foreign channels.

Responding to a demand of journalist leaders, the minister said his ministry will cooperate in organising the Asia Summit.

Editor-in-Chief of GTV and sarabangla.net Syed Ishtiaque Reza and Broadcast Journalist Center Chairman Rezwanaul Haque and its member secretary Shakil Ahmed were present at the meeting, among others.

# Govt mulls

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(Operation) ATM Harun Or Rashid on April 21.

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council approved the development project proposal (DPP) for this on June 21, 2018.

Earlier, Jica conducted a feasibility study on the underground substations and found Gulshan-1 and Karwan Bazar suitable.

"We have already appointed a consultancy firm, and a process to appoint a construction firm is going on," Harun said.

Usually, around one acre of land is required to construct an overground substation but an underground substation can be built under a multi-storey building without any risk.

Harun further said electricity demand in DPDC area is 1,700MW per day.

# Nutrition governance initiatives launched

CITY DESK

The Ministry of Food and the European Union have launched National Information Platform for Nutrition and four nutrition governance initiatives, says a press release.

The launching ceremony was held at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday.

Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder was present at the programme as chief guest. Rensje Teerink, ambassador of the European Union to Bangladesh; Prof Shamsul Alam, member (senior secretary) of General Economic Division, Ministry of Planning; and Ashadul Islam, secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, were also present.

In 2012, Bangladesh joined the SUN movement, acknowledging the crucial role that nutrition plays in development. Bangladesh National



Nutrition Council has been revived and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025 which aims to achieve "nutrition for all" by fostering inter-sectoral coordination has been adopted.

The second Country Investment Plan 2016-2020 on nutrition-sensitive food systems has been developed in response to the commitment made in the 7th Five Year Plan and to enhance

investments in priority nutrition-sensitive programmes.

The European Union in Bangladesh maintains Food and Nutrition Security as a main focal sector of cooperation and works closely with its member states and other development partners to support government efforts to eradicate undernutrition and all types of malnutrition.

# Limitations prevail to enforce copyright law: Speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded strict implementation of the Copyright Act 2017 to ensure the rights of creators of original works by determining whether, and under what conditions, others can use it.

Meanwhile, other participants said the current situation of the country has some limitations to implement the act strictly, as people from all walks of life are yet to be capable of buying books at high prices.

This remarks came from a discussion marking World Book and Copyright Day 2019, organised by Bishwa Sahitya Kendra (BSK) at its auditorium in the capital's Banglamotor.

Presenting a keynote paper on "Amader Srijonshil Grantha o

Medhaswata" (Our creative books and intellectual rights), Department of Secondary and Higher Education Director Prof Dr Abdul Mannan Sarker said, "Creative writers are being deprived of their rights [economic benefit from intellectual property], as their books are being pirated indiscriminately." He claimed that reluctance of the state is responsible for such a situation.

Khan Mahbubul Alam, vice president of Bangladesh Gyan O Srijonshil Prokashok Samity, alleged that pirated books are being sold in some book stalls at Nilkhet but no one is there to monitor this offence.

"If it continues, mainstream publishers will lose their interest to publish books," he said.

Secondary and Higher Education Division Secretary Sobrah Hossain said many people -- especially

students -- read pirated books, so strict implementation of the law is not possible in this circumstance.

"Our country is developing day by day. One day it will be possible when the income of people is high," he said.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, founder president of BSK said the copyright law is important for ensuring the right of writers, although there are some difficulties in the current circumstances of the country to implement the act strictly.

He urged all to increase their reading habits in printed version of books.

World Books and Copyright Day was observed across the world yesterday. On April 23, 1995, Unesco started celebrating the day to encourage reading, publishing, and copyright worldwide.

# All eyes on BNP's

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last week reiterated that the party's MPs-elect will not take oath as lawmakers.

Duration of the second session of parliament will be brief, said sources at the parliament secretariat. The Business Advisory Committee of parliament will sit in a meeting before the House goes into session at 5pm to set duration and other matters. Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury will chair the meeting.

# Another Jaha Alam

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the HC in seven days.

The bench of Justice JBM Hassan and Justice Md Khairul Alam came up with the rule and order following a writ petition filed by rights organisation Law and Life Foundation, seeking necessary order.

The bench also set May 6 for passing further order on this issue, petitioner's lawyer Barrister Humayun Kabir Pallab told The Daily Star.

He said the police reportedly arrested Arman in a drug case in January 2016 instead of original accused of the case Shahabuddin Bihari. Both their fathers' names are Md Yeasin.

The detention of Arman is like that of jute mill worker Jaha Alam, who was released from jail following a HC directive, Barrister Pallab added.



**IN REMBRANCE**  
With fond memories we remember today, Late Cdre Ghulam Rabbani (BN) Ex-Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority and Ex-MD of KEPZ on his 15th death anniversary, who was robbed of his life by miscreants in Chittagong on April 24, 2004.  
Relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to remember him in their prayers. Quran Khatam, Prayer and Feeding the destitutes have been organized. -Bereaved Family

**URS MUBARAK**  
The Annual Urs Mubarak of Dadajee Qibla Shamsul Ulema Hazrat Maulana Shaif Ullah (R.A.) will be held on Wednesday, 24 April 2019 at 78 Shantinagar, Dhaka. On this occasion, Quran Telewat will start at 11:30 hours, and DUA at 13:00 hours, followed by distribution of Tabaruk.

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# ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST GRAFT CASE HC to hear Khaleda's appeal on April 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday set April 30 for hearing an appeal filed by BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, challenging a lower court verdict that convicted and sentenced her to seven years' imprisonment in Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

A total of 24 grounds have been included in the appeal under which the HC may consider her prayers.

The bench of Justice Obaidul Hassan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman set the date after her lawyers placed the appeal for fixing a date of hearing.

Advocate Zainul Abedin, Barrister Kayser Kamal and Barrister AKM Ehsanur Rahman appeared for Khaleda. HC may hold a hearing on the admission of the appeal on April 30, Kayser Kamal told The Daily Star.

If the court accepts the appeal, it may set another date for a further hearing, the lawyer added.

# Road block postponed

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About evaluation of answer scripts, he claimed several errors were found, which were caused by poor evaluation.

"Only three students of 2015-2016 session of Dhaka College's Bangla department passed the exam out of 216. One obtained CGPA 4.17 out of 4 and another was shown failing in two subjects although he sat for a retake exam of one course. That's why we are demanding re-evaluation of the answer scripts," he added.

Their other demands include publishing results within 90 days, separate administrative building for seven colleges, at least 14 monthly classes by DU teachers, introducing separate academic calendar and crash programmes to curb session jam.

**World Food Programme**  
বিশ্ব খাদ্য কর্মসূচী

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

**Expression of Interest**  
**Prequalification of Retailers and Food Wholesalers for WFP Cox's Bazar Ref. CXB19NF37EOI**

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian organization and the United Nations front-line agency fighting hunger worldwide.

**About the programme:**

- A surge of Myanmar nationals (Rohingya) have arrived in Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar's northern Rakhine on 25 August 2017. To date, it is estimated that over 900,000 people have crossed the border into Bangladesh.
- In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, WFP provides assistance to vulnerable Rohingya refugees from Myanmar with electronic cards (e-cards). E-cards are the principal assistance modality that beneficiaries use to purchase food and non-food items from the WFP-contracted shops around the camps. The cards significantly allows beneficiaries to choose preferred food to meet their individual consumption needs.
- WFP will establish additional outlet structures to be run by retailer(s) / wholesaler(s) where Rohingya refugees will be assisted by way of an electronic voucher system operable at various locations of the Cox's Bazar District. These locations will have food commodities (and potential other basic non-food items) stocked to be redeemable by refugees using the Assistance Card (e-voucher), and operated at Retail outlets.
- UN World Food Programme will be launching a Request for Proposals for the contracting of Retailers. Interested reputable firms in retail companies /wholesalers capable of supplying the quantity and quality needed to meet the minimum requirements are kindly requested to send a letter of interest to the email address below.

**Minimum Requirements:**

1. Legal capacity to enter into a contract (legal registration).
2. Ability to acquire all required legal licenses needed for companies to trade in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
3. Company with a minimum of two years' experience as an established business; (retail business experience is preferred).
4. Company accepts WFP's payment terms and conditions;
5. Ability to provide staff training on retail operations and in-store services and /or store maintenance;
6. Ability to provide store operations and back of house operation manuals in the required language;
7. Readiness to dispatch additional company staff to outlet locations;
8. Willingness to learn and apply data analytics to improve and efficiently run the retail operations; maintain uninterrupted food supply, delivering high quality service whilst maintaining cleanliness and hygiene levels.
9. Ability to provide food and non-food commodities in larger quantities to meet the demand of the scale-up of WFP E-Voucher programme, with number of beneficiaries increasing from 300,000 to 850,000 to be distributed in 45 shops around the camp.

Interested suppliers can get the WFP Supplier Registration Form and more information on WFP's requirements by sending an e-mail to: [coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org](mailto:coxsbazar.procurement@wfp.org)

**Deadline for registration: Monday 29 April 2019, at 16:00 hrs Dhaka time**  
Looking forward to your responses