



The smoking woman is not the hot woman you're expecting

E. GAZA

Ed's note: Smoking is injurious to your health and the health of others around you.

Upstanding citizens have recently been standing up to right the wrongs of a civil society about to go rogue. Wow, that was hard to put together. Just like it must have been to watch a woman light up a cigarette in public on Rajshahi's Circuit House Road last week.

All she wanted was a puff to help coat over her worries and insecurities with a soothing layer of tar and nicotine. The woman was sitting with a friend, who was a male by the way, on the side of the road when public figure Barrack Oh-Mama felt this was just so wrong. He politely shouted at her to snuff out her momentary lapse of judgement and walk away.

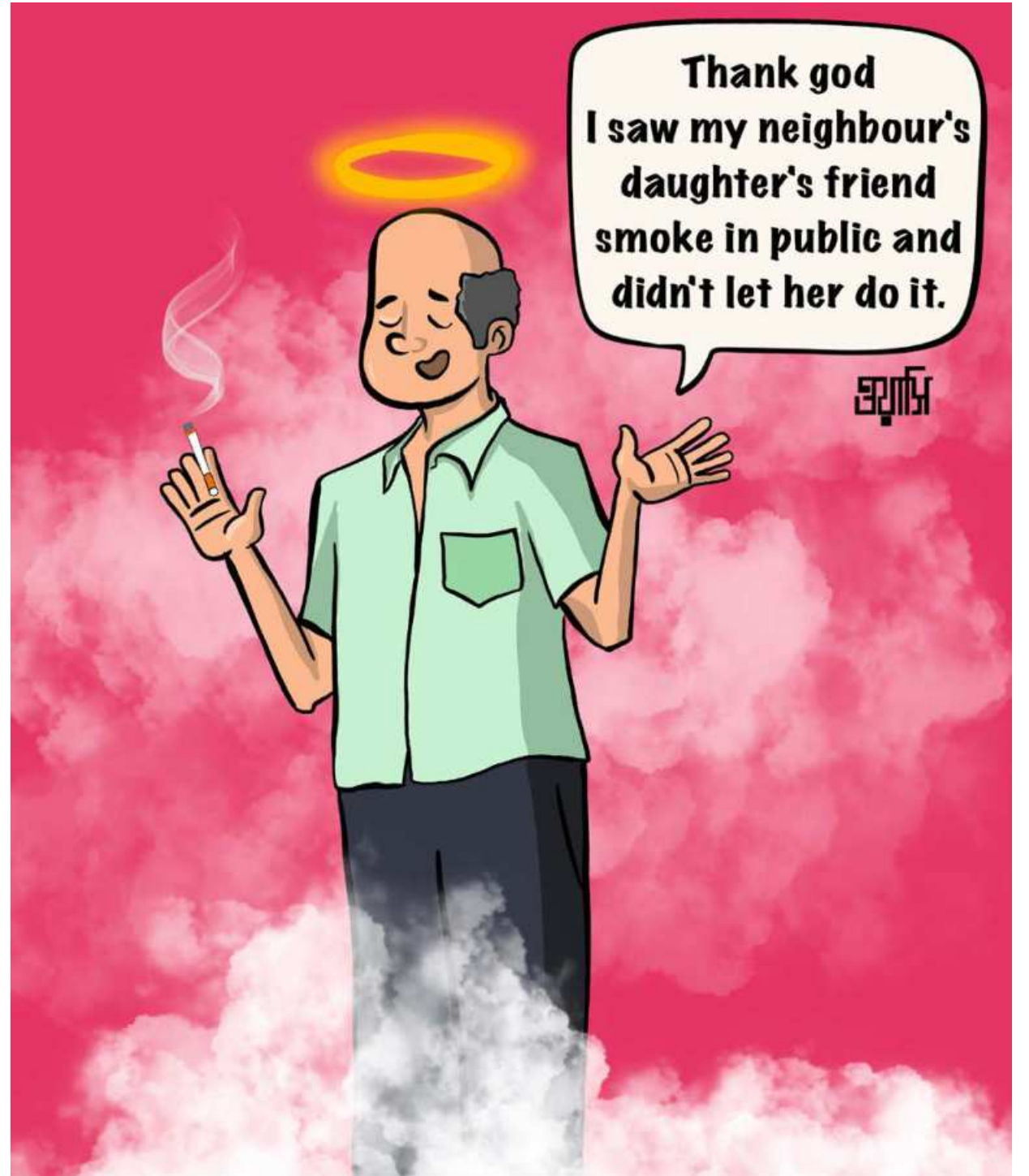
"Men can smoke. Women can't smoke. They can only be smokin', if you know what I mean," said Mr. Oh-Mama. Smoking causes about 90% (or 9 out of 10) of all lung cancer deaths. More women die from lung cancer each year than from breast cancer (fact from www.cdc.gov) or

from cleaning households. While many condemned his rebuke, others formed a crowd thinking his caring and altruistic nature towards women should really be the discussion.

"Smoking is bad. And she was a woman. Two wrongs don't make a right," said a bystander who prefers to be Anonymouse. No, not a typo. They are part of a large group of social welfare activists that call themselves the 'Liberated Manly Men Front Against Moral Decay', or 'Anonymouse' for short.

A woman doing what a man does is a dangerous thing apparently. According to the members of Anonymouse, women shouldn't smoke in public or secretly in toilets. Young girls will see them and be prompted to do the same.

"Imagine the chaos if more women start doing what men do," said a very worried man. "Today they sit in the open and smoke. They even drive scooters but not to deliver sandwiches. They might even want to run a country someday. What will happen then?"



'Only female smokers cause environmental pollution', man finds in a very private research

MAHBUB ALAM MUNNA

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Smoke from cigarettes causes both health and environmental problems. But a recent research by a Bangladeshi legend has found something new. Man, from Rajshahi, after decades of research, has found that it isn't smoke from cigarettes that causes environmental pollution, rather only smokes from the cigarette of women cause environmental pollution!

The philanthropic researcher didn't confine himself to his house after a world-saving research work. He came out from his house and was looking for female smokers to deliver the result of his research. He raises his voice as soon as he finds a girl smoking.

The man starts to deliver his valuable speech with a packet of cigarettes in his pocket and a cigarette in his hand. While bringing his good tidings to some female smokers, one dared asked him why he was smoking in spite of knowing all the consequences of it. He said, "My dear lady, male smokers don't cause environmental pollution. Only female smokers cause environmental pollution. I found it during one of my very personal research works. So, it doesn't matter whether I, a representative of male, smoke or not as it's not detrimental to environment. So stop smoking and save the world from being destroyed by environmental pollution." After hearing this reply, all the male smokers around started to clap, admiring their new triumph over the fairer sex.

TRAVEL DIARY

Saint Martin's man arrested for fraudulent use of the word 'resort' and other adventures

OSAMA RAHMAN

Saint Martin is supposed to be the next big tourist destination for Bangladeshis. Fact is, Saint Martin has been the 'next big thing' since it was first discovered. The second fact is Saint Martin will always be the Mario Ballotelli of the tourism world: the potential is there, but it can never be realised.

It seems no one with any grasp of the island's commercial potential has stepped forward to do something. The one reason for this can be the stupid journey by what is supposedly a launch. It's a two-and-a-half hour journey, interrupted every ten minutes by a very confused captain, who berates everyone for standing on the right side of the vessel. "I am warning you again, the boat will capsize if we don't balance it out, please go to the left side," he will say, and then everyone will just move to the left side. The captain will then ask everyone to move to the right and this will go on.

The launch, without anyone following any of the health measures, is the first thing that dampens your mood about the adventure. That and the seagulls, which

have a constant need to be fed.

If you survive the journey and reach the Island, the second thing to hit you will be the massive underdevelopment. Rustic and quaint would be the words you would use to describe the island if you were a patronizing jerk. The true word is backward.

The island is so backward, you almost feel like you will run into your great grandfather at any moment. Cars? There aren't even proper roads. Want a brand name fried chicken? Not a single joint in the entire island. Want to explore the cuisine? It's a bunch of gram flour soaked coconuts and whatever fish they can catch.

If you have a dignified palate, the island's food is not for you.

But wait, the beaches you say? They are pretty, sure. Blue water, white sands, lots of shells -- which the islanders will warn you against collecting to ruin your mood further -- and other beach things. But a beach swimming pool? Doesn't exist. You want a beach activity that doesn't involve coconuts? Doesn't exist either. Want to eat the freshest, right off the sea BBQ'd crabs

and flying fish? You can do that, but all the island has are fish and crabs anyway.

The beaches still have trees, like no one has thought of clearing those up for DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES. You will be walking on the beach and boom, trees. What are trees even doing on the beach anyway? Can someone get five-star hotels to clear this mess up, please?

Saint Martin's has the potential to be one of those Thailand islands. It can also be the Maldives of Bangladesh. Except it won't because no one has any interest in developing the island and getting rid of its useless, pristine beauty.

Finally, every local with a room calls it a resort. One tiny room. One tiny bathroom. No centralised electricity. Yet, it's apparently a resort because they give you shampoo and soap. No ATMs either, by the way, so if you are a refined cashless man, then in the island they will call you poor. If modernity is what you want Saint Martin's is not for you. Also, no kids to save either, so no chance of taking pictures with skinny local kids. In other words, much ado about nothing.



PHOTO: STAR