

Increase tobacco tax in budget

Demand speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-tobacco campaigners have demanded an increase in tax for all types of tobacco products, particularly the retail price for premium-tier cigarettes from Tk 150 per 10 sticks to Tk 170 in the upcoming national budget 2024-25, to discourage smoking.

The call came at a press conference yesterday at Jatiya Press Club in the capital, jointly organised by National Heart Foundation and Platform Doctors Foundation.

Campaigners also proposed the price of low-grade cigarettes be made Tk 60 per 10 sticks, Tk 80 per 10 stick for middle level, and Tk 130 for high-end cigarettes.

They said if this is implemented, then the use of cigarettes in the country will be reduced from 15.1 percent to 13.80 percent.

Parliament member Tanvir Shakil Joy said the price of harmful products like tobacco is cheaper in Bangladesh as there is no effective tax structure.

Complex tax system (tier-based) for tobacco products should be cancelled and a specific tax system should be implemented so that prices increase, thereby reducing purchasing power of general public, he added.

National Heart Foundation President Prof Khandaker Abdul Awal Rizvi said 18 percent of the country's citizens aged 15 and above, are smokers.

Around 3.78 crore people use tobacco and 15 lakh suffer from tobacco-related diseases, while around 1,61,000 people die annually. In 2017-18 fiscal year, the economic loss from tobacco use was Tk 30,560 crore, said speakers at the event.

Dr Shafiun Nahin Shimul, associate professor of Institute of Health Economics of University of Dhaka; Sohail Reza Chowdhury, president of National Heart Foundation Hospital and Research Institute and Rashed Rabbi, president of Bangladesh Health Reporters' Forum, among others, spoke at the programme.

Eight years on, trial

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Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of police submitted a charge sheet in the case to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, accusing nine members of the banned militant outfit Ansar al Islam, including Syed Ziaul Haque alias major (sacked) Zia.

The eight other accused are Mozammel Hossain Saimon, Arafat Rahman Siam, Sheikh Abdullah alias Jubair, Rashed-Un-Nabi Bhuiyan alias Tahsin, Akram Hossain, Asadullah alias Foyjul, Sabbirul Haque

Chowdhury, Junaid Ahmed alias Maulana Junaid.

On January 17, 2022, the Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal accepted charges against the nine accused.

Of them, Mozammel, Arafat, Sheikh Abdullah, Rashed-Un-Nabi are now behind bars.

"The accused will be produced in court on May 16, the scheduled date, and the charges will be framed against them. After that, we will try our best to finish the trial of the case quickly by producing witnesses before the court for statements," hoped state lawyer Jakir.

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Request for Expression of Interest (Eoi) For Recruitment of Resettlement Implementation Non-Government Organization
Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project is inviting Expression of Interest (Eoi) from experienced non-government organizations to facilitate involuntary resettlement activities for rural roads and other infrastructures to be undertaken through the project. Interested non-government organizations are invited to submit their expression of interest, online, using ADB portal: <https://cms.adb.org>. No off-line/physical submission is allowed. Closing date for receiving Eoi is 02 June 2024.
(Paban Kumar Chakma)
Project Director,
CRLIWM-CHT Sector Project
Project Management Office
Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC), Rangamati
Mobile: 01556511231, Email: pd.crlwimcht@gmail.com

TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE

Involve those affected in decision making

Speakers tell workshop



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday said local and affected communities should be included in different climate change and disaster management related initiatives for better and durable solutions to their problems.

Besides, collecting data on climate induced displacements is crucial to address problems faced by the vulnerable groups, they said.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) organised the workshop on "Avert and Minimise Displacement" at Dhaka University.

Noted economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said inclusion of affected people in different plans and their implementations is one task that needs to be done.

There have been government

efforts to rehabilitate displaced people or avert displacement while civil society is also active nationally and locally in this regard, he said.

However, the issue of including local communities in the plan has been under-addressed, he added.

RMMRU Founding Chair Prof Tasneem Siddiqui said displaced people are often excluded from the decision-making process.

"Their rights are often disregarded and, in many cases, they end up in more environmentally vulnerable areas," she said.

Lack of data makes it difficult to seek climate change related fund for the affected and vulnerable people, she added.

Awami League lawmaker Tanvir Shakil Joy said adverse climate condition is becoming more apparent day by day because of climate change.

Local people should be included

in different climate change and disaster management related plans since they know the best way to resolve their problems, said Shakil, also member of the parliamentary committee on environment, forest and climate change ministry.

Addressing the event as chief guest, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Mohibbur Rahman called for building a disaster resilient Bangladesh.

Abdusattor Esoev, chief of mission of International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Bangladesh, said it is important for Bangladesh to have data resources to address climate change related displacements.

He said IOM is committed to continue its support to the country in fighting climate change related challenges.

Kamrul Hasan, secretary of disaster management and relief ministry, also spoke.

'Homecoming' two

FROM PAGE 3

it reached the airport on Wednesday night, said Md Abu Bakkar Siddique, first secretary (labour) at the embassy.

He said the embassy arranged the airfare of around Tk 4.5 lakh.

He said they wrote Shipon's employer Majedy Bin Haji Abdul Gani to pay the hospital bill but he did not pay heed. "I have lodged a complaint against the employer with the Labour Department of Brunei," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Shipon's wife, Khorsheida Begum, said after she heard that her husband was admitted to

a hospital, she borrowed another Tk 1.65 lakh from neighbours and relatives for his treatment.

"Now my daughter and I have been passing days in financial hardship. But despite all the pain, I am finally at peace to see my husband's body return home around two and a half years after his demise in a foreign land," Khorsheida told this newspaper.

Shipon's only daughter, Sabrina Mim, said she passed HSC in 2020 but had to stop her education due to financial hardship.

Syndicate struck

FROM PAGE 3

him. If he is arrested, it will be clear how he gets the question," said Harun.

Meanwhile, a source within the police said Asim may have fled the country.

The alarm bells rang after seven individuals in Madaripur and one in Rajbari were detained with leaked question papers on their mobile phones during the March 30 exams.

Cases were filed separately in these districts. Although most

of the candidates arrested in Madaripur were granted bail, one individual confessed in court about how he obtained the leaked papers. Following a request from the Superintendent of Police of Madaripur, the DB initiated an investigation, leading to the recent arrests.

Asked whether the DB would request the authorities to cancel the exam, Harun said, "We will report everything to the higher authorities. They will then decide."

Take prompt

FROM PAGE 5

a memorandum addressed to the premier through the Kaunia UNO.

Hundreds of residents joined the programme that continued for an hour.

Speakers placed their six-point demand at the event.

Their demands include prompt implementation of the Teesta Comprehensive Plan, signing of the Teesta Treaty, construction of dams and barrages on the river, establishing connections between the river's branches and tributaries with its eastern course through dredging, eviction of encroachers, and restoring river navigation.

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মোবাইল: ০১৯৯৯৭৭৭৩৯৯৮

Teachers

FROM PAGE 5

where Prof Sadeka Halim, vice-chancellor of Jagannath University and also a member of the syndicate, was given the responsibility to resolve the issues after discussing with the teachers' association," he also said.

"A meeting has been arranged for May 16 to discuss teachers' applications for promotions to Grade 1 and Grade 2, respectively," Prof Moyeen added.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 26
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:30 4:45 6:29 8:00
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:00 6:34 8:30
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DUBAI-BOUND BIMAN FLIGHT

Hundreds suffer for technical glitch in aircraft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred passengers had to suffer at the Shah Amanat International Airport in Chattogram on Wednesday as a Dubai-bound Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight was delayed for around 19 hours due to a technical glitch in the aircraft.

There was no electricity or power on the Biman's flight for around three hours.

Biman authorities said the flight BG-147 landed at the Chattogram airport from Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon on its way to Dubai.

After passengers boarded the flight, it was pushed back to 7:45pm. The aircraft got to the runway and tried to increase the engine power, which failed due to a sudden technical problem, Biman said.

The pilot-in-command then called the ground engineer, who then started working to resolve the issue.

As it was taking time to fix the technical glitch, passengers were brought out of the aircraft and taken to the terminal. Later, passengers were sent to hotels.

After delaying for around 19 hours, the flight finally departed from Chattogram airport for Dubai at around 2:10pm on Wednesday after solving all the mechanical problems with the aircraft.

Bangladeshi expatriate killed in South Africa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj



An expatriate was killed in a "robbers' attack" in South Africa on Wednesday afternoon, said his family.

The deceased is Afif Iqbal Kamal, 50, of Sonargaon upazila, Narayanganj.

Kamal had a shop in Hayabusa area in South Africa, said his nephew

Arafat Hossain Sifat.

"On Wednesday (Bangladesh time around 3:00pm), a gang of robbers looted Kamal's shop and strangled him to death," he added.

"We came to know about my uncle's death through his Bangladeshi neighbours there," Sifat said.

Kamal, who had been in South Africa for the last 10 years, left behind his wife and daughter.

His family members said they are trying to contact the embassies concerned to bring the body back home.

However, Sonargaon Upazil Nirbahi Officer Abdullah Al Mahfuz said they have not received any such news so far.

"If deceased family members contact us, we will help them as per the government proceedings," he said.

Sonargaon Police Station Officer in Charge Md Kamruzzaman echoed the same.

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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ক্রমিক নং/ বিভাগ	প্রতিরক্ষা/ মন্তব্য
০১	মন্ত্রণালয়/ বিভাগ
০২	অধিদপ্তরের নাম
০৩	বাহ্যিক/স্বাক্ষরকারী অফিস
০৪	অর্থায়নের উৎস
০৫	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নম্বর ও তারিখ
০৬	দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির নাম/ বর্ণনা
০৭	ক্রয় প্রক্রিয়া
০৮	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)
০৯	আর্নেস্ট মানি/ টেন্ডার সিকিউরিটি (অফেরতযোগ্য)
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের স্থান
১১	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয় আরম্ভের তারিখ
১২	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ
১৩	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৪	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান
১৫	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান
১৬	দরপত্রের তথ্য/ শর্তাবলী
১৭	কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র আংশিক কিংবা সম্পূর্ণ গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

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স্বাক্ষর
২৫/০৪/২৪
(মোঃ নুরুল করিম)
উপপরিচালক (দায়িত্বরত)
ফোনঃ ০২৩৩৩৩২১২৫২(অফিস)
E-mail: ctgibmd@gmail.com