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**PUBLISHED OPINION ARTICLES OF MEDIA MANAGER, WRITTEN BASED ON  
DISSEMINATION OF SURVEY FINDINGS OF TOBACCO CONTROL LAW COMPLIANCE IN  
PUBLIC TRANSPORT (BUS).**



21 August, 2020.

**Restaurants need to abide by tobacco control law**

Published : Friday, 21 August, 2020 at 12:00 AM

*Muhammed Rubayet*

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**Restaurants need to abide  
by tobacco control law**

Smoking is extremely harmful for the vital organs of our human body and it can even cause death. A renowned English Daily of Bangladesh reported that "According to PROGGA, a leading anti-tobacco group in Bangladesh, tobacco consumption kills over 1,62,000 people in Bangladesh every year".

Moreover, it has been reported in a science directed bio-medical journal "Effects of electronic cigarette smoke exposure on oral and systemic health" that cigarette contains 7000 chemical substances out of which 70 chemical substances are cancer-causing substances when we know that cancer can cause long term painful suffering and also death at worst case. Now smoking at the restaurants make it vulnerable for all the other people coming there at restaurants with family and children and at times of the pandemic it is even riskier.

Dhaka is the largest city of Bangladesh where a total of 21,006,000 people is residing. Now, this ample population which includes office goers, university students and business people, many of those cannot make time to prepare food for themselves. Household population



who remains at home also goes to restaurants with family and friends for having different kinds of food in restaurants for recreational activities.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted a cross sectional survey in 371 restaurants in Dhaka City on the month of June in 2019. It was found that 98% of the Dhaka City Restaurant authorities were not complying with tobacco control (TC) law. DAM organized an online zoom meeting with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) high officials and Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association (BROA) authorities and is on the process of having the same kind of meeting in this ongoing month with Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) high-up officials regarding the Dhaka City Restaurant Baseline Survey which was conducted to check the compliance of the tobacco control law of Dhaka City restaurants.

Later, the dissemination survey results were also shared with the journalists of Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh through an online zoom meeting as journalists are also a stakeholder of the law related issue.

The issue of the restaurants' non-compliance to the law has become a great concern. According to section-4 of Bangladesh Tobacco Control law, smoking is prohibited in the restaurants. Now, in the later part of rule-7 (Ka) it is mentioned that the owners/supervisors/managers would have to keep their public places and public transport completely smoking free. This law clearly shows that it is the responsibility of the owners/supervisors/managers for keeping their restaurants (which falls under public places) completely smoke free and not to mention that they are going to be held accountable if any TC law is not complied.

According to rule-8, it is compulsory for all public place and public transport to display the highest cautionary signage. However, according to DAM conducted survey 92% restaurants were seen to have any kinds of cautionary signage. This survey result shows that the restaurants are not taking the matter of using no smoking seriously even when it is there in the TC law regardless of the fact that the no smoking signage can be made with very less costs within a short time.

The Chief Health Officer of DNCC said that the corporation should take stern actions against those Dhaka City restaurants which do not abide by the tobacco control law. The journalists can make more news with recent statistics to take attention of the government to implement the tobacco control law in the restaurants of Dhaka City and also raise awareness of the mass people at the same time.

If success is achieved from the Dhaka City restaurants' implementation of tobacco control law then DAM is going to use the same procedure with stakeholders gradually all over Bangladesh to ensure smoke free restaurants throughout Bangladesh. This would also be a step forward towards achieving the national goal which Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina herself earlier announced, "Bangladesh will be a tobacco free country by 2040".

The writer is currently working as Media Manager, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project).

<https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=271117>

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25 August, 2020.

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2. Editorial

## City restaurants non-compliant of tobacco control law

August 25, 2020 | 22:02:PM | Update22:02:PM

**TBT**  
**EDITORIAL**



SHARES

Smoking is extremely harmful for the vital organs of our human body and it can sometime even cause death. A renowned English news daily in Bangladesh citing World Health Organization (WHO)'s comment on tobacco consumption reported that in any form consuming tobacco kills more than 161,000 people on average every year, amounting to around 19% of all deaths in Bangladesh. Moreover, the evidence has been corroborated in a science directed bio-medical journal "Effects of electronic cigarette smoke exposure on oral and systemic health" that cigarette contains 7,000 chemical substances out of which 70 chemical substances are cancer-causing substances. We know that cancer can cause long term painful suffering and also death at worst case scenario. Now smoking at the restaurants make it vulnerable for all the other people coming there at the restaurants with family and children and at times of the pandemic it is even riskier.

Dhaka, the capital and the largest city of Bangladesh is home to a ofpopulation of approximately 20 million. A large portion of these people who include office goers, university students, and business people, many of those cannot make time to prepare food for themselves rely on restaurant made foods. Household population who remains at home also goes to restaurants with family and friends for having different kinds of food in restaurants for recreational activities.

Recently, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted a cross-sectional survey in 371 restaurants in Dhaka city back in June of 2019. It was found that 98% of the Dhaka City Restaurant authorities were not complying with tobacco control (TC) law. DAM organized an online zoom meeting with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) high officials and Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association (BROA) authorities. They are also in the process of having the same kind of meeting in the current month with Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) high-up officials regarding the Dhaka City Restaurant Baseline Survey which was conducted to check the compliance of the tobacco control law of Dhaka City restaurants. Later, the survey results were shared with the journalists through an online zoom meeting as journalists are also a stakeholder of the law related issue.

DAM conducted survey found that about 98% of the Dhaka city restaurant authorities are not complying with tobacco control law in the restaurants which is a matter of great concern as the number of restaurants not following the TC law are higher. According to section-4 of Bangladesh Tobacco Control law, smoking is prohibited in the restaurants. Now, in the later part of rule-7 (Ka) it is mentioned that the owners/supervisors/managers would have to keep their public places and public transport completely smoking free. This law clearly shows that it is the responsibility of the owners/supervisors/managers for keeping their restaurants (which falls under public places) completely smoke free and not to mention that they are going to be held accountable if any TC law is not complied. According to rule-8, it is compulsory for all

public place and public transport to display the highest cautionary signage. However, according to the survey 92% restaurants were seen to have any kinds of cautionary signage. This survey result shows that the restaurants are not taking the matter of using no smoking seriously even when it is there in the TC law regardless of the fact that the no smoking signage can be made with few expenses and within a short time.

The Chief Health Officer of DNCC said that the corporation should take stern actions against those restaurants which do not abide by the tobacco control law. The media should report more on recent statistics to grab the attention of the government to implement the tobacco control law in the restaurants of Dhaka City and also raise awareness of the mass people at the same time. If success can be found from the Dhaka City restaurants' implementation of tobacco control law then DAM is going to use the same procedure with concerned stakeholders gradually all over Bangladesh to ensure smoke free restaurants throughout Bangladesh. This would also be a step forward towards achieving the national goal which Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina herself earlier announced, "Bangladesh will be a tobacco free country by 2040".

The author is working as a Media Manager at Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project).

<https://thebangladeshtoday.com/?p=23164>

3) **Dhaka Tribune**

27 August, 2020.

1. [Home](#)
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## OP-ED: No smoking, please

[Muhammed Rubayet](#)

- Published at 08:54 pm August 27th, 2020



Bigstock

### Putting out the cigarette for a healthier Bangladesh

Smoking is extremely harmful for the vital organs of the human body, and it can lead to premature death. According to the World Health Organization, "tobacco consumption, in any form, kills more than 161,000 people on average every year, amounting to around 19% of all deaths in Bangladesh."

Moreover, it has been reported that cigarettes contain 7,000 chemical substances out of which 70 chemical substances are cancer-causing substances. During a pandemic, smoking becomes even riskier.

Dhaka is home to over 21 million people. Now, this ample population, which includes office-goers, university students, and business people, many of whom cannot make time to prepare food for themselves, rely on restaurants. Even the people who remain at home go to restaurants with family and friends for recreational activities.

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted a cross-sectional survey in 371 restaurants in Dhaka City in the month of June in 2019. It was found that 98% of the restaurants were not complying with the tobacco control (TC) law.

DAM organized an online zoom meeting with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) high officials and Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association (BROA) authorities and is in the process of having the same kind of meeting this month with Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) high-up officials.

This is regarding the Dhaka City Restaurant Baseline Survey which was conducted to check the compliance of the tobacco control law of Dhaka city restaurants.

The fact that 98% of Dhaka restaurants are not complying with the tobacco control law is a matter of great concern. According to Section 4 of the Bangladesh Tobacco Control law, smoking is prohibited in restaurants.

It is also mentioned that the owners/supervisors/managers would have to keep their public places and public transport completely smoking free.

This law clearly shows that it is the responsibility of the owners/supervisors/managers to keep their restaurants (which fall under public places) completely smoke-free, not to mention that they are going to be held accountable if any TC law is not complied with.

It is also compulsory for all public places and public transport to display the highest cautionary signage. However, according to the survey, 92% of restaurants were seen to not have any kinds of cautionary signage.

This survey result shows that the restaurants are not taking the matter of “no smoking” seriously.

The Chief Health Officer of DNCC said that the city corporation should take stern actions against those Dhaka City restaurants which do not abide by the tobacco control law. Journalists can cover the story with more recent statistics in order to bring the issue to the attention of the government so that they implement the tobacco control law more strictly. It would also raise awareness amongst the people at the same time.

This would also be a step forward towards achieving the national goal which Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina herself earlier announced, of having a tobacco-free Bangladesh by 2040.

*Muhammed Rubayet is currently working as Media Manager, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project).*

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/2020/08/27/op-ed-no-smoking-please>



#### 4) The Daily Industry

27 August, 2020.



## City's restaurants don't comply with tobacco law

■ Muhammed Rubayet



Smoking is extremely harmful for the vital organs of our human body and it can sometime even cause death. A renowned English News Daily of Bangladesh reported

that 'According to World Health Organization, tobacco consumption, in any form, kills more than 161,000 people on average every year, amounting to around 19% of all deaths in Bangladesh'. Moreover, it has been reported in a science directed bio-medical journal 'Effects of electronic cigarette smoke exposure on oral and systemic health' that cigarette contains 7000 chemical substances out of which 70 chemical substances are cancer-causing substances when we know that cancer can cause long term painful suffering and also death at worst case. Now smoking at the restaurants make it vulnerable for all the other people coming there at the restau-

rants with family and children and at times of the pandemic it is even riskier. Dhaka City, the capital city and the largest city of Bangladesh is home to a total of 21,006,000 people. Now, this ample population which includes office goers, university students and business people, many of those don't have time to prepare food at home for them except relying on restaurant made foods. Household population who remains at home also goes to restaurants with family and friends for having different kinds of food in restaurants for recreational activities. Now, Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) conducted a cross sectional survey in 371 restaurants in Dhaka

City on the month of June in 2019. It was found that 98 percent of the Dhaka City Restaurant authorities were not complying with tobacco control (TC) law. DAM organized an online zoom meeting with Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) high officials and Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association (BROA) authorities and is on the process of having the same kind of meeting in this ongoing month with Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) high-up officials regarding the Dhaka City Restaurant Baseline Survey which was conducted to check the compliance of the tobacco control law of Dhaka City restaurants. Later, the dissemination survey results were

also shared with the journalists of Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh through an online zoom meeting as journalists are also a stakeholder of the law related issue.

DAM conducted survey found that about 98 percent of the Dhaka City restaurant authorities are not complying with tobacco control law in the restaurants which is a matter of great concern as the number of restaurants not following the TC law are higher. According to section-4 of Bangladesh Tobacco Control law, smoking is prohibited in the restaurants. Now, in the later part of rule-7 (Ka) it is mentioned that the owners/supervisors/managers would have to keep their public places and public transport completely smoking free. This law clearly shows that it is the responsibility of the owners/supervisors/managers for keeping their restaurants (which falls under public places) completely smoke free and not to mention that they are going to be held accountable if any TC law is not complied. According to rule-8, it is compulsory for all public place and public transport to display the highest cautionary signage. However, according to the survey 92% restaurants were seen to have any kinds of cautionary signage. This survey result shows that the restaurants are not taking the

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matter of using no smoking seriously even when it is there in the TC law regardless of the fact that the no smoking signage can be made with very less costs within a short time.

The Chief Health Officer of DNCC said that the corporation should take stern actions against those Dhaka City restaurants which do not abide by the tobacco control law. The journalists can make more news with recent statistics to take attention of the government to implement the tobacco control law in the restaurants of Dhaka City and also raise awareness of the mass people at the same time. If success can be found from the Dhaka City restaurants implementation of tobacco control law then DAM is going to use the same procedure with concerned stakeholders to ensure smoke free restaurants throughout Bangladesh. This would also be a step forward towards achieving the national goal which Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina herself earlier announced, 'Bangladesh will be a tobacco free country by 2040'.

*The writer, Muhammed Rubayet is currently working as Media Manager, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project).*

[http://edailyindustry.com/front\\_assets/epapers\\_content/760cfe3d6ec6c059b5bad0261a5e4087.jpg?fbclid=IwAR0ELe1GIjTXXTKJFCFR1zLbVqzNauVGLDdpjWP9VbxjbsDVm44nGRoEQijE](http://edailyindustry.com/front_assets/epapers_content/760cfe3d6ec6c059b5bad0261a5e4087.jpg?fbclid=IwAR0ELe1GIjTXXTKJFCFR1zLbVqzNauVGLDdpjWP9VbxjbsDVm44nGRoEQijE)

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## Violating tobacco control law in public transports

Published : Saturday, 19 September, 2020 at 12:00 AM

*Muhammed Rubayet*

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Muhammed Rubayet

A bulletin of World Health Organization (WHO) says, "More than half of Bangladeshi men over the age of 25 years smoke cigarettes or bidis--small handmade cigarettes containing about one fourth the amount of tobacco found in cigarettes". In Bangladesh, and particularly in Dhaka City, majority of the public bus drivers are men. These male drivers, who are mostly less educated or uneducated, do not know about tobacco control law.



Now, the commuting in the public transport in this fast moving city with having a hot, humid temperature becomes a nightmare rather than a comfortable and peaceful journey. In the journal of European Respiratory Review it has been written, "Nonsmokers who breathe other people's smoke (i.e. involuntary smoking) inhale the same carcinogens as active smokers, although at much lower doses". Sad but true that this health issue in public transports are overlooked as it can cause severe health damages to the human body of the staff and the commuters.

The Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector conducted a cross-sectional survey. This survey was carried out on 22 routes in Dhaka City when 417 non-air-conditioned public buses (city service buses) were observed and each bus was observed once on the month

of October in the capital in 2019. It was found that 100% buses were not to acknowledge with tobacco control law. Moreover, 91.3% buses drivers/helpers were seen directly smoking in the buses during the survey.

Almost 100% buses were found not to display any 'no smoking signage' in the buses. Almost 9 out of 10 public buses in Dhaka city were found with smoking instance(s). However, the survey result has a wider gap with the law as according to section-4 of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Law it is prohibited to smoke in public places and public transport. There are some provisions kept for punishments if the law is broken in public.

#### Violating tobacco control law in public transports

If anyone violates this law by smoking in public then he/she can be fined 300 Bangladeshi Taka for the first time and the amount would be doubled if he/she does it again for the second consecutive time. On the other hand, the



drivers/helpers use a trick by dropping the small cigarette/bidis whenever they seen any traffic police approaching near to them in the street. As a matter of the fact that the drivers and helpers are getting a way by violating the law but without getting any punishment by using tricks.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) with the support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector and Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids arranged a physical meeting on 7 September, 2020, Monday where the DAM conducted survey of the bus baseline survey was disseminated where BRTA and Bus Owners Association Members were present.

The Bus Owners should also use the cautionary signage where it would have to be written in English and Bangla that "Smoking causes death". When people will read that smoking can cause death then at least for once they would take the matter seriously and should refrain from smoking in the public buses.

The Chairman of BRTA and Additional Secretary of Bangladesh Government Mr. Noor

Mohammad Mazumder said, "Permanent 'no smoking' signage will be used during providing fitness certificate by BRTA. He believed that 90% of the professional drivers can be made aware through different kinds of awareness programs (drivers' orientation, human chain, short youtube videos) and the rest 10% of the professional drivers would have to be punished through proper implementation of the law". He also hoped that if BRTA and all association, law enforcement agencies (police), drivers and labourers will work together and actively follow the law then it is possible to achieve the honourable Prime Minister's declaration "Making Tobacco Free Bangladesh by 2040" before targeted time.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Lead Consultant, Dr Shariful Islam said, "That a clause should be included in the driving license about no smoking in the public transport during managing/controlling the transport as per law".

The bus drivers and helpers are not privileged with the light of education and they have the unhealthy mentality of taking advantage of the passengers' dependency on them in streets. The law enforcement agencies have a crucial role to play to control the use of tobacco products in public transports and mass awareness programs by concerned authorities have to be used to make them aware.

The writer is working as Media Manager, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector.

[https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=275580&fbclid=IwAR01CTrN08WdB7kL6Mncek-CxgbxlcXKejf-EQWGXxvmw\\_J7zq2AbV\\_34x0](https://www.observerbd.com/news.php?id=275580&fbclid=IwAR01CTrN08WdB7kL6Mncek-CxgbxlcXKejf-EQWGXxvmw_J7zq2AbV_34x0)

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**The Daily Industry**

18 September, 2020.



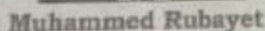


■ Dr. Denis Koleilat Khatib

**A**s pharmaceutical companies argue that their products are safe, they also claim that their products are effective. But what if the drugs are neither safe nor effective? The FDA has been asked to consider whether it should require drug manufacturers to prove that their products are both safe and effective before they can be marketed.

Many analysts offered different explanations for the growth behind the trade and their reported results. Some said they are setting the stage for a comprehensive peace in the region. Others saw in this the death certificate of the anti-Peace Initiative.

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ken in public. If anyone violates this law by entering a public place he/she can be fined 300 Bangladeshi Taka for the first time and the amount would be doubled if he/she does it again for the second consecutive time. On the other hand, the drivers/helpers use a truck by dropping the small carts/rats/beds wherever they traffic police approaching near them in the street. As a matter of the fact that the drivers and helpers are getting away by violating the law but without getting any punishment by using tricks.

getting any punishment by using crisscrossed lines. The BRTA and the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) with the support of Dhaka Abesam Mission Health Sector and Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids arranged a physical meeting on 7 September, 2020, Monday where the BSM facilitated survey of the bus baseline survey was disseminated where BRTA and Bus Owners Association Members were present. The Bus Owners should also use the cautionary signage where it would have to be written in English and Bangla that 'Smoking causes death'. When people read that smoking can cause them death then for once they would take the matter seriously and should refrain from smoking in the public buses.

The Chairman of BHTA and Additional Secretary of Bangladesh Government Mr Noor Mohammad Masumder said, "Permanent no smoking sign will be used during providing fitness certificate by BHTA. We believed that 90% of the professional drivers can be made aware through different kinds of awareness programs (drivers' association, human chain, short youtube videos) and the rest 10% of the professional drivers would have to be persuaded through proper implementation of the law". He also hoped that if BHTA and all association, enforcement agencies (police, drivers and labors) will work together and actively follow the law then it is possible to achieve the honorable Prime Minister's declaration "Making Tobacco Free Bangladesh by 2030" before targeted time.

2040" before targeted time.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Lead Consultant, Dr. Sharif Islam said, "That a clause should be included in the driving license about no smoking in the public transport during managing/controlling the transport as per law".

The bus drivers and helpers are not privileged with the bounty of education or light of civilization plus they have the unhealthy mentality of taking advantage of the passengers dependency on them in streets. The law enforcement agencies have a crucial role to play to control the use of tobacco products in public transport and mass awareness program by concerned authorities have to be used to make them aware of the harmful health problems that can occur from using tobacco products and legal consequences of violating the law.

The writer, Muhammed Rubayet is working as Media Manager, Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project)

that conditioned Arab communalism during the 1960s years, while it is the start of a new era of Arabism is no longer conditional on the satisfaction of a "peace for the Unthinkable." 70-year conflict dynamics and relations. The League supported Moscow to with Israel, the Palestinians denunciation statement of a rebuffed by the Arab League priorities. Namely, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Sandwiched between Zionism and Turkey's hegemony, a necessary ally. In addition, with the Palestinian understanding by the squabbling Saudi monarch King Abdullah. Palestinian Liberation Organization under the Makkah Agreement to the leadership of the UAE and Bahrain the Palestinian leadership, condemnation reality. They should not leave their homes in Palestine the head of conspiracy, be shattered on the third-generation, reducing conditions for the Palestinian in time for the Palestinian.

Media Manager's self-written article "91.3pc bus workers smoke in transport", based on Dissemination of Survey Findings of Tobacco Control Law Compliance in public transport (bus) has been published in the Opinion page (page number-7) of the much renowned English News Daily of Bangladesh, EDaily Industry as of 18 February, 2020, Friday.

Unfortunately, the direct link of the published article could not be retrieved by our contacts in The Daily Industry due to technical error. However, Media Manager could retrieve a camera taken picture of the published opinion article which could have been found in print version as well.

No direct link of the article could not be found even after trying numerous times.

7) The Bangladesh Today

15 September, 2020.



<https://thebangladeshtoday.com/?p=23857>



8)

## Bangladesh Post

*a daily with a difference*

20 September, 2020.

By City Desk

**Published :** 20 Sep 2020 09:41 PM | **Updated :** 20 Sep 2020 09:41 PM

- 81 Shares

Majority of drivers and helpers of public buses across the country, especially in Dhaka city, are smokers and most of them don't follow the tobacco control law.

Talking to Bangladesh Post, Muhammed Rubayet, Media Manager of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector (Tobacco Control Project), said that the tobacco control law is mostly violated in public buses in the capital city. He told the daily that 91.3% of drivers and helpers smoke in public buses during driving.

Muhammed Rubayet said these following a cross-sectional survey over the issue. The Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector conducted the survey on 22 routes in Dhaka city.

A total of 417 non-air-conditioned public buses (city service buses) were observed during cross-sectional survey. Each bus was watched in the capital once in the month of October 2019.

It was observed that 100% buses do not comply with Tobacco Control Act. Moreover, 91.3% of drivers and helpers were seen to directly smoke in the buses during driving of the vehicles. Almost 100% of buses were found not to display any 'No Smoking Signage' in the buses. Almost nine out of 10 public buses in were found with the smoking instance. However, the survey result has a wider gap with the law.

According to Section-4 of Bangladesh Tobacco Control Law, it is prohibited to smoke in public places and public transport. There are some provisions kept for punishments if the law is violated. If anyone violates this law by smoking in public then s/he can be fined Tk 300 for the first time and the amount would be doubled if s/he does it again for the second consecutive time.

Muhammed Rubayet said that the drivers and helpers use a trick by dropping the small cigarette/bidis whenever they noticed traffic police approaching to them. As a matter of the fact that the drivers and helpers are getting away by violating the law but without getting any punishment by using tricks.

Against this backdrop, the journey in public transport in the capital city with having a hot, humid temperature becomes a nightmare rather than a comfortable and peaceful journey.

The bus owners should use the cautionary signage where it would have to be written in English and Bangla that 'Smoking causes death', Muhammed Rubayet.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) with the support of Dhaka Ahsania Mission Health Sector and Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids arranged a meeting on September 7 where the DAM's baseline bus survey was disseminated in presence of the BRTA and Bus Owners Association members.

BRTA Chairman Noor Mohammad Mazumder said, "Permanent no smoking signage in the buses will be used otherwise no fitness certificate of the vehicles should be issued by BRTA."

He believed that 90% of the professional drivers can be made aware through different kinds of awareness programmes and the rest 10% of the professional drivers would have to be punished through proper implementation of the law. He hoped that if BRTA and all association, enforcement agencies (police), drivers and labourers work together and

actively follow the law then it is possible to achieve the Prime Minister's declaration "Making Tobacco Free Bangladesh by 2040" before targeted time.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Lead Consultant, Dr Shariful Islam said, "That a clause should be included in the driving license about no smoking in public transport during managing/controlling the transport as per law."

<https://bangladeshpost.net/posts/91pc-drivers-aides-smoke-in-dhaka-public-buses-42816>