

World No Tobacco Day 2019 Celebration

Background

National Tobacco Control Cell (NTCC) of the Health Services Division (HSD), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) observes World No Tobacco Day (WNTD) this year at national level, highlighting the health risks associated with tobacco use and discussing policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for World No Tobacco Day, 2019 was "Tobacco and Lung Health", which proposes measures that governments and the public should take to promote health by confronting the global tobacco crisis.

Through observing the WNTD at national level, attention of the policy makers were drawn to the importance of tobacco control in light of public health. The attention of public and media were also drawn to the importance of controlling tobacco, especially aiming at bringing down the prevalence and burden of tobacco-attributable disease.

Activities undertaken:

A. WNTD press conference:

A brief press conference was held on 19th June, 2019 at the Conference Room of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka. On behalf of Mr. Zahed Malik MP, Honorable Health Minister, MoHFW; Md. Khairul Alam Sheikh, Joint Secretary and Coordinator, NTCC read his speech for the TV/Radio reporters and journalists. Mr. Bablu Kumar Saha, Additional Secretary (Development), Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (World health), HSD were also present at the press conference and gave their valuable speech. Dr. Bardan Jung



Rana, WHO representative to

Bangladesh with his colleagues and other respected member from different anti tobacco organizations was also present at the press conference.

TV/Radio reporters and journalist from various newspapers were present in the press conference. They were briefed about the harmful and devastating effect of tobacco menace and were requested to create mass awareness against tobacco through their TV, Radio and newspaper media. They were also briefed and invited about the main National program to be held on 20th June,

2019 at the main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum.

B. National Program on 20th June:

World No Tobacco Day 2019 was celebrated by Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with elation and accomplishment. The Day started with a lively rally started from Central Shaheed Minar of Dhaka University and ended at Bangladesh National Museum. More than 1000 people attended in the rally from various government and non-government organizations including doctors, nurses, scouts, girl's guides, anti-tobacco activists. Rally was inaugurated and led by Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (World Health), HSD and coordinated by Mr. Md. Khairul Alam Shiekh, Joint Secretary & Coordinator of NTCC.



This year Bangladesh National Museum was selected to hold the national program and its premises was decorated ostentatiously and a well ornamented stage was also set in its main auditorium for the knowledge richen discussion session.

Discussion panel was chaired by Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Secretary, HSD. Mr. Md. Saidur Rahman, Additional Secretary (World Health), HSD started the discussion session with his welcome speech. Dr. Bardan Jung Rana, WHO representative to Bangladesh; Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, former chairman of National Board of Revenue, Mr. Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, President of National Anti TB Association of Bangladesh (NATAB); Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Director General, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and National Professor Brig. Gen (Rtd.) Abdul Malek delivered their speech as guest of honor. Finally, the session was concluded by a brief speech from Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Secretary, HSD, MoHFW.



All the honorable members of discussion panel shared their view, opinion and knowledge regarding detrimental effect of tobacco on Mankind and how to combat this hazard to lead a healthy life.

C. World No Tobacco Day Award – 2019:

This year WNTD award – 2019 was given into three categories [individual, district level and organization] for spectacular contribution in the field of anti-tobacco activities and raising awareness against tobacco.



Dr. Nasiruddin Ahmed, former chairman of National Board of Revenue was chosen for WNTD award – 2019 at individual level for his pioneer role and contribution in anti-tobacco activities in Bangladesh.



Bangladesh Anti-Tobacco Alliance (BATA) was chosen for WNTD award – 2019 at Organizational level for its dedicated activities and leadership role against tobacco in our country.



At district level Nilphamari district task force received the WNTD award-2019 for their leading role to reduce the use of tobacco and implementation of tobacco control law effectively and efficiently. Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon of Nilphamari received the award from honorable Secretary of HSD.



World no tobacco day-2019 award winner in one group photo with the respected chairperson and other special guest.

D. Anti-tobacco fair:

A vibrant and colorful anti-tobacco fair was held at the outer premises of main auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum after the discussion session. Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Secretary, Health Services Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated the fair. Around 16 government/non-government organizations working in tobacco control from various part of our Country set up their stall at the fair with emphasis on anti-tobacco awareness creation among the mass people. They also distribute various anti-tobacco materials such as books, leaflets, IEC's, posters e.g. to create knowledge and awareness against tobacco for people who visited the fair.



E. Others:

On 20th June 2019, special supplement was published at 12 national daily newspapers that includes message from Honourable President, Honorable Prime Minister, Health Minister, Secretary – HSD, Director General of Directorate General of Health Services, Additional Secretary (World Health) of HSD and Representative of World Health Organization to Bangladesh. This supplement included an elaborate article written by Coordinator of National Tobacco Control Cell on tobacco control efforts in Bangladesh.

NTCC also communicated with all 64 Deputy Commissioner and Civil Surgeon offices to celebrate WNTD 2019 through official letters and as a result WNTD was widely celebrated throughout the country.