

Dhaka Day by Day

Conning the Consumer

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

If there is anyone who is constantly duped, it is the consumer. Existing in an increasingly capitalist world he is bombarded by innumerable advertisements of products that guarantee to make his world a better place.

In Dhaka, which has often enough proved itself to be a city of knaves, nothing could be more true. The city consumer who is constantly pressed for time is often the victim of unscrupulous sellers who dump him with sub-standard, sometimes even harmful products with mindblowing prices.

If there is anything guaranteed about soyabean oil for example, it is the fact that half of it will be palm-oil. Just leave it after cooking for a few minutes; even in 40°C, the curry pot will have a layer of whitish waxy film, something that can never happen with pure soyabean oil.



As for the pure ghee or butter oil that the vendor tries to dump you with, it's time to wake up and smell the soap folks! Be sure that honey (at least that which is procured locally) will have more sugar than honey and grains, whether pulses or rice will have enough stones and gravel mixed with them to build another Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Road.

The locally manufactured or cooked items are the worst of these deceivers. What is called tomato ketchup is really a concoction of red artificial colouring, vinegar and lots of kodu(turnip). One may wonder why it is not just called 'kodu sauce' or 'artificial tomato sauce'?

But nothing can beat the stuff served as food in the numerous bakeries and eating places called hotels. It is here that the word unwholesomeness is epitomized. Chicken patties, the staple of many a working person, may be filled

up with a mush of browned onions and oil to make sure that the microscopic flakes of chicken scarpings, if there are any, are practically indiscernible. Similar is the case with chicken puffs, chicken sandwiches and chicken rolls. Another hot favourite that has invaded the canteens of offices is the shingara, that cute little triangular pocket of delight.

"Pocket of surprise would be a better word with its mysterious black filling that sets the tongue on fire and the single, tiny cube of beef liver as a token of what might have been. The hotels with their adulterated oil, semi-rotten meat and bacteria ridden water, are the champions of this 'look-alike food' craze and the birthplaces of jaundice, dysentery and other unsavoury afflictions. Rumour has it that some of the so delicious byrant and tehart are actually the leftover debris collected from wedding feasts. Think about that the next time you chew on a leathery piece of khashi (goat meat):

Then there are the less edible items that the city consumer is perpetually seduced into buying. These are the cosmetics and toiletries that will make you a more beautiful, younger you. Creams to make you fair inspite of your Dravidian genes, are constantly advertised on TV without mentioning that some of them may contain carcinogenes. Of course, one may try to rationalise the tendency to stretch the truth or even hide it. After all, a claim of curing falling hair could mean really 'curing' by making sure that there

aren't any hairs left to bother about.

But what of the look-alikes, the pathetic imitations of brand names that never fail to fool us. One may find a wide range of products made actually in Jingira, (a place notorious for making counterfeits), but claim to be from France, Japan or some other designer country. You might get for example, "Cutex nail remover" notice that the word polish has been left out which probably does scrape off your nails, it's so harsh. A Revlon lipstick is more like a sandpaper stick, rough enough to take off the skin with a stroke. Last but not the least, is the Eau De Toilette from Paris, that should have been called eau de toilet or eau de clogged drain, with its 'fragrance' for it would drive away even the most ardent Romeo.

Without the safeguards of Consumer Rights Laws or Consumer Reports as in other countries the consumer has little option, save to learn the hard way. The only thing he, perhaps, can do is to rely on his senses. If for instance, something smells of rotten eggs and it isn't an egg, just don't buy it. It's as simple as that.

Supplementary budget needed for development works, JS told

Treasury bench members yesterday urged the boycotting Opposition parties to return to Parliament and resolve all problems through discussion in the House, reports BSS.

Participating in the general discussion on supplementary budget they said the opposition should respond to the call of the Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to settle all national issues through exchange of views in the sovereign Parliament.

ATM Alamgir (BNP) justified the need for supplementary budget to meet the unforeseen expenditures during the outgoing financial year.

He said the expenditure as shown in the supplementary budget was aimed at development and public welfare. Therefore, he said, it should be passed.

Alamgir said the supplementary expenses were necessitated to repair schools and colleges and implement other development works.

He urged the government to start rural electrification work in Laksam. Speaking next, Begum Khwaja Shamsunnahar Ahsanullah said it is a general practice that the government has to meet some unforeseen situation during a financial year for which expenditure goes beyond the budgetary allocations.

She pleaded for the passage of the supplementary budget.

The BNP member appealed to the Opposition to come back to Parliament and settle all matters through discussion.

Participating next, Saifur Azam (BNP) said there should not be any rigidity in politics. The aim of the Opposition, he said, is to oust the BNP government, and that is why they had started making various pleas right from the beginning of this Parliament to create problems.

Azam said the Opposition first raised the demand for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, but the people did not endorse such a demand. Subsequently, Azam said, many new issues were created in the name of Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee, Bharatiya Dalal Nirmul Committee and then a caretaker government.

He said all these issues were created to oust the BNP government. He said the Opposition should demand free and fair elections but not a neutral caretaker government.

He said the BNP is a popularly-elected government. Therefore, any attempt to give a push to the BNP would affect the people, he added.

Referring to the supplementary budget, he said the additional expenditure was necessitated for a many positive

reasons such as golden handshake to encourage voluntary retirement and for various development works.

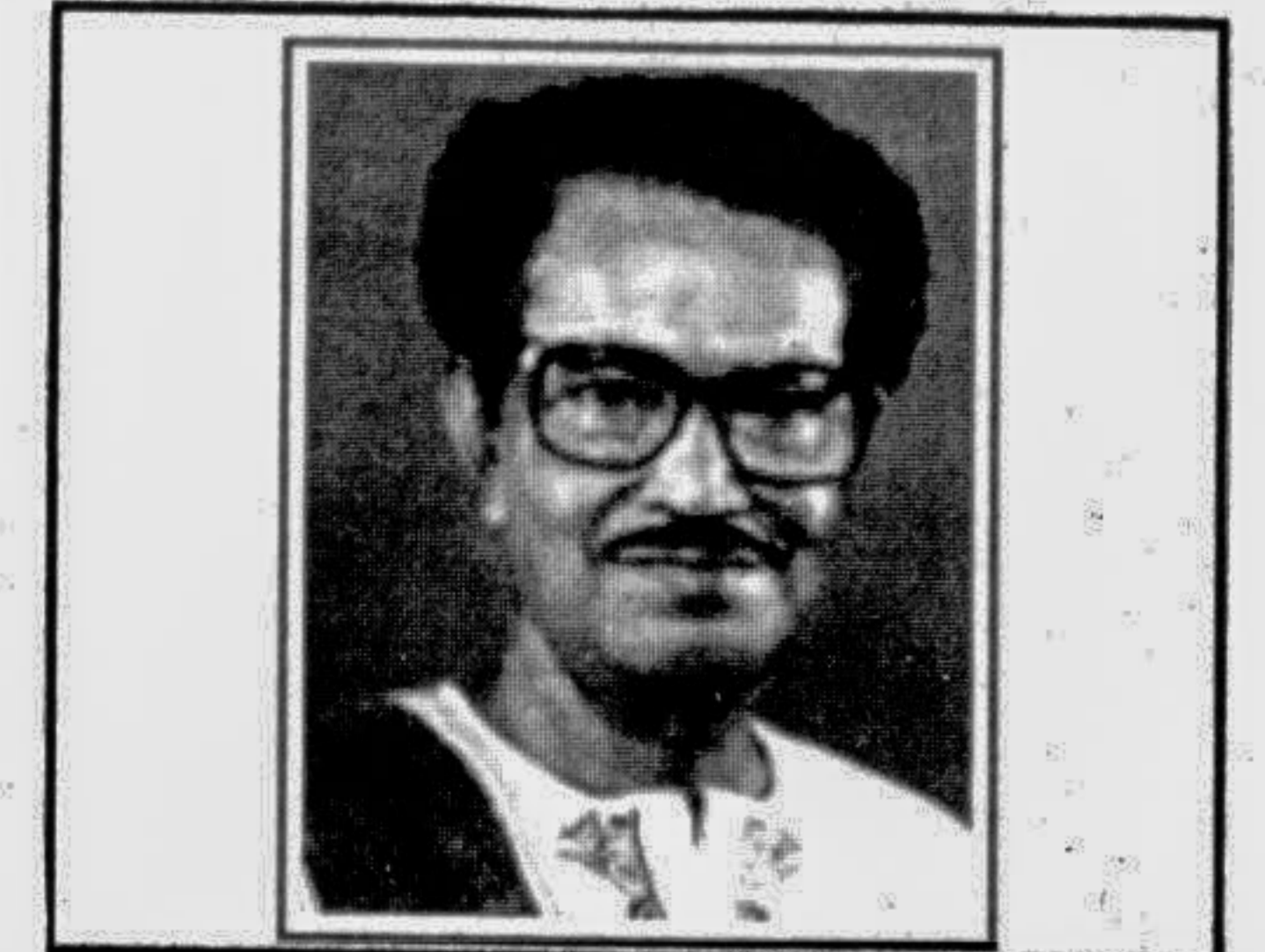
Happy Birthday



Dad We Love You Shakik and Noor

Happy Birthday

To DEEBA From Uncle, Aunty, Erum, Kaiser, Imran, Saima & Faiza



প্রয়াত অমৃত লাল দে স্মরণে

তুমি আছ নেত্রপন্থের মাঝে আমা সব সময় তোমার সত্যকে অনুভব করি।

আজ ১৪ই জুন। এক বছর আগে এই দিনে তুমি আমাদের শোক সাগরে তাসিয়ে চিরবিদায় নিয়েছ। মানব কল্যাণের যে মহতী আদর্শ তুমি বকে ধারণ করেছিলে, আমরা যেন তা সমুদ্রত রাখেতে পারি- এটাই বিশ্ববিধাতার কাছে আমাদের একান্ত প্রার্থনা।

তোমার বিদেহী আত্মা চিরশান্তি লাভ করুক।

ব্যবাহত শ্রী যোগমায়ী ভাই সুরেন, রাশাল ও বিজয় এবং তোমার আত্মজনেরা

Tk 20cr DCC project to eradicate mosquito

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has under taken a Tk 20 crore project to eradicate mosquito in the city, reports UNB.

This was stated by LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder in Parliament yesterday.

Replying to Sarder Sakhat Hossain Bakul of BNP, the minister said that the corporation had realised tax amounting to Tk 46.13 crore during

July-May period of this fiscal. The amount is Tk 2.66 crore more than what was realised during the corresponding period of the previous fiscal (1992-93).

The minister said that outstanding taxes totalling Tk 46.71 crore remained unrealised. Of the amount, Tk 17 crore is lying with the government institutions as holding tax while Tk 29.71 crore with private owners.

What's on today...

Painting Exhibition: By Abdus Sattar organised by Divine Arts. Salman F Rahman will inaugurate the show. Venue: Divine Arts, Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30. The exhibition will remain open everyday from 9 am to 8 pm until June 21.

In the Shadows of Daily Trivia: An exhibition by Ferdousi Priobhashine. Artist S M Sultan will inaugurate the show. Chief guest: Poet Sufta Kamal. Venue: Bengal Foundation, Road-27, House: 42, Dhanmondi. Time: 5 pm.

Zahir Raihan Film Society: Bangla-Russian film session is going on. Today's film: Return of the Maxim. Director: G. Kozintsev. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6 pm.

Publication Ceremony: Of the book titled 'Patiyar Ethas and Oitihya' (History and Heritage of Patiya). Venue: Institution of Engineers. Time: 4:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka South: Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 5:30 pm.

Rotary Club of Dhaka North West: Regular weekly meeting will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 7 pm.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Chief Engineer Construction and Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare Road No.11, House No. 80, Block-E, Banani Model Town, Dhaka

Fourth Amendment Notice

The bid notices and subsequent amendments circulated through this office for the sub-components of fourth Population and Health Project under IDA Credit 2259-BD are amended as under:

- 1. The place of receiving and opening bids of all the 4 sub-components of the 4th Population & Health Project, namely i) 4 Nurses training Centres, ii) Strengthening of Nursing Education and Services Project, iii) Development of 18-District Hospitals and iv) Further Development of 4 Medical College Hospitals shall be as follows: Office of the Executive Engineer, Dhaka Division 105-106, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 Office of the Consultants M/S Sthapati Sangshad Ltd. House 4, Road 9, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205

M. Majibur Rahman, PSC Colonel Chief Engineer, CMMU



Prime Minister's Special Envoy M Morshed Khan presenting a photo album to Kazuo Haruna, leader of the Investment Study Mission of Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, on conclusion of their visit to Bangladesh yesterday.

Wednesday BTV 4:30 Opening announcement 4:45 Documentary: World Cup 94 5:10 News in Bangla 5:20 Children's programme. Amra Natun Hijal Tamal 5:50 Open University 6:50 Tagore song 7:20 News in Bangla 8:30 Dance Programme 9:05 Film show The A-Team 10:00 News in English 10:30 Programme on population 11:30 Khubar/The News

Death anniversary

The second death anniversary of Professor Safdar Ali, a noted educationist and retired professor of English of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Mymensingh, will be observed today, says a press release. Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at the Bashabo Jheelpar Zame Masjid on the day after Maghreb prayers. Prof Ali died of old-age complications on June 15, 1992 at his Bashabo residence at the age of 75.

Weather Light rain likely

Occasional light to moderate rain or thundershower is likely to occur at most places over Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at many places over Dhaka division during the next 24 hours till 6 pm (Wednesday), reports UNB. Met office said moderately heavy fall may also occur over the country during the period. It said the day temperature may remain nearly unchanged throughout the country.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 33.4 degree Celsius in Sylhet and lowest 24 degrees at Khepupara in Patuakhali district yesterday. The sun sets today (Wednesday) at 6.47 pm and rises tomorrow (Thursday) at 5.11 am.

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max/Min), Humidity in Percentage (9 am/6 pm). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Dinajpur, Cox's Bazar.

গাড়ি বিক্রয় বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তুমি রেকর্ড ও জরিপ অধিদপ্তরে গাড়ি সিডিউলের স্পেসিফিকেশন ও শর্তাবলী মোতাবেক নিম্নে বর্ণিত ৩ (তিন) টি অকেজা ঘোষিত গাড়ি যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায় বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে আগ্রহী ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত সিডিউলে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। প্রতিটি সিডিউলের মূল্য টাঃ ৫০/০০ (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা যাহা অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র অধিদপ্তর হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে।

গাড়ির বিবরণ table with columns: ক্রমিক নং, রেজিস্ট্রেশন নম্বর, মডেল/বহুতকাল, দরকম

১) ঢাকা ৮-২৬১১ ১৯৮০ টয়োটা কার ২) ঢাকা ৮-২৭২৫ ১৯৭১ ল্যান্ডরোভার জীপ ৩) চট্টগ্রাম ৮-৯১৪ ১৯৭০ টয়োটা ল্যান্ড ক্রুজার জীপ

দরপত্র আগামী ১২-০৬-৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারী কর্মকর্তার অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাজে জমা দিতে হইবে। দরপত্র ৫ দিনই বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রাদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ দিন অর্থাৎ ১২-০৬-৯৪ ইং তারিখে কোন সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হইবে না। কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন টেন্ডার গ্রহণ বা বাতিলকরণ ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

যতীন্দ্র প্রসাদ তনচন্দ্রা উপ-পরিচালক (অর্থ ও বাজেট) তুমি রেকর্ড ও জরিপ অধিদপ্তর তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৮

PWD Tender Notice Tender Notice No. 152/1993-94

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 from enlisted & Approved Class 1 (one) Sanitary/Plumbing contractor/firm of PWD, according to financial limit for the undermentioned work. Tender will be received by the undersigned & the Executive Engineer, PWD Division Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/ Lalmonirhat/Nilphamary/Panchagarh and Thakurgoan in their office on 19-6-94 Eng. at 12-00 Noon & will be opened the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers (who may like to remain present).

Table with 6 columns: Sl. No, Name of work, Estimated Cost, Earnest money, Time for completion, Eligibility of Contractor submission tenders.

Tender form, schedule of works, Add. terms & conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned & the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Lalmonirhat/Nilphamary/Panchagarh and Thakurgoan and the Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division I/II/EM Dinajpur & Phulbari on any working day during officer hours up to 5-00 PM on 18-6-94 Eng on payment of usual cost (Non-Refundable).

Shamsul Kabir Executive Engineer PWD Division, Dinajpur

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার "গ্রামীণ মহিলাদের জন্য কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি" প্রকল্প

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর ৬২৩, বড় মপবাজার, ঢাকা তারিখঃ ৯/৬/৯৪

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক পরিচালিত "গ্রামীণ মহিলাদের জন্য কর্মসংস্থান সৃষ্টি" প্রকল্পে সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিম্নলিখিত পদসমূহ পূরণের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে স্বহস্তে পিছিত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের সর্বশেষ তারিখঃ ০০-৬-৯৪ ইং।

ক্রমিক নং, পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল, সংখ্যা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা

১) (ক) নাম (খ) পিতা/স্বামীর নাম (গ) স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা (ঘ) পদ অনুযায়ী বর্ণিত শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা (ঙ) জন্ম তারিখ (চ) ০০-৬-৯৪ ইং তারিখে সঠিক বয়স (ছ) নারিকত্ব সার্টিফিকেটসহ নব্বয় মাসিক করিতে হইবে। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতা সমন্বয়ের সহায়িত অনুলিপি, ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান অথবা ১ম শ্রেণীর পেচেন্টেট অফিসার কর্তৃক চরিত্রপত্র সার্টিফিকেট দরপত্রের সহিত দাখিল করিতে হইবে। ২) ১ম শ্রেণীর পেচেন্টেট অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত সদা কেসা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ কপি ছবি। ৩) সকল পদের জন্য সরকার নির্ধারিত সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ০০ কবর। ৪) সরকারী/আধা-সরকারী স্বায়তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের চাকরীদের গণ্যকৃত কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে করিতে হইবে। ৫) বামের উপর পদের নাম এবং দরপত্রকারীর নিজ কোমর নামসহ পূর্ণ ঠিকানা লিখি দিতে হইবে। ৬) উপরোক্ত শর্তাবলী সম্পূর্ণ বাকিলে দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।