

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Where Do Those Bottles Come From?

by Aasha Mehreen Amin

One of the things that the prudent Dhakaites never fails to do is keep enough boiled drinking water in the house. With diarrhoea, jaundice and other frightening diseases threatening to attack, one cannot be too careful. Usually this life saving water is stored in long sturdy bottles with shiny gilded caps. A closer look however, reveals labels that boast 'the finest scotch whisky or 'dry gin' with names like Black Label, Red Label, Gordons and so on. Which brings us to the question: where do these foreign labelled bottles come from and how do they find their way into almost every other middle class household in Dhaka?

Most Dhakaites, being too busy, may think it is silly to bother with such trivia when issues like the traffic problem, urban poor or political deadlock should be what the conscious citizen should worry about. But for every 'conscious' citizen there is one noney Parker who does like to meddle with such nitty gritty as where do these bottles come from.

For those households that have an abundant and varied supply of bottles, this is an indication that there is enough alcohol consumption at home to ensure such an enviable stock. This, of course, brings us to the interesting but perhaps naive question — if alcohol is so frowned upon and prohibited by Islamic dictates, why doesn't the consumption of alcohol reflect this in a country where 90 per cent of the population claim they are Muslims? The answer lies somewhere between the fact that like most of the world, we Bangladeshis follow the 'if you don't get caught you're not doing anything wrong' rule and the far-fetched notion that we are in some way related to the Irish who allegedly have special enzymes to absorb alcohol giving them superb drinking capabilities. Whatever the explanation is, the fact is that very few parties of Dhaka's elite take off without a long drawn out alcoholic binge (indulged mainly by males) before dinner is

finally served at eleven o'clock at night. If anyone believes that these bottles (before they are turned into water carrying receptacles) are very hard to obtain, rest assured that this is not the case. Those who have good diplomatic connections can easily buy them through diplomatic channels,

while travelling Dhakaites can get them through the Duty Free shops.

Others find more interesting means. Apparently all one has to do is hang around certain roads in Gulshan or Banani and if one is a part of a group of young men, an 'alcoholwala' (hawker) will approach and ask 'kichu lagbe naki' (need something?). If the answer is yes, he will get into the car and take his eager customers to a house where they will be asked to wait outside while he gets the goodies. Prices, of course, are high, ranging from 1200 taka for a half litre bottle of scotch to over 3000 taka depending on the brand. Just about any kind of alcoholic beverage can be acquired

through such efforts — gin, scotch, beer, champagne, wines, cognac — anything that makes up the consumer's fantasy.

For the households to which these merry drinkers belong there is never a dearth of these wonderfully reliable bottles that can hold gallons of drinking water for the family.

But what about the teetotalers, are they to be left out? Not at all. There are plenty of empty Red Labels, Black Labels etc for sale in, say New Market, supplied by clever 'kagojwalas' (paper vendors), who in turn buy them from enterprising domestic staff of expatriates and Bangladeshi employers who drink.

Thus, like a complicated food chain the scotch whisky bottle from England finds its way into the fridge of the ever efficient housekeeper who always makes sure that the 'Johny Walkers' are filled to the brim with good old H O.



Empty bottles aplenty. — Star photo



A roving market on the first day, yesterday, of the opposition's 72-hour marathon hartal across the country. — Star photo

### Talk on Int'l Ozone Day

The Youth Action for Social Advancement (YASA), a welfare organisation, held a discussion meeting in the city yesterday on the occasion of the first International Ozone Day-95.

It was addressed by YASA Chairman Mohammad Anwar Zahid, Secretary General H M Sarwar Alam, Mohammad Foyez Ullah and Mohammad Bakhtiar Mahmood.

The meeting expressed concern over the alarming destruction of the ozone layer and emphasized mass awareness to protect the environment.

### Nagorik condoles death of Bennewitz

The Nagorik Natya Sampradaya has condoled the death of noted German theatre director Fritz Bennewitz who died of cancer on Wednesday, says a press release.

The Sampradaya organised a condolence meeting at its office in the city on Friday evening.

The meeting paid tribute to the memory of Fritz. They remembered their association with Fritz during his stay in Dhaka a couple of years ago.

They also decided to dedicate their next performance — *Deewan Gazir Kischsa* — scheduled for September 19 at the Mohila Samity auditorium.

### Seminar on fair polls Sept 19

An open dialogue session on 'National Election: Credible or Free and Fair' will be held at the VIP lounge of Jatiya Press Club on September 19, reports UNB.

### Rare species of quail found

By Nazmul Ashraf

A rare species of bird, Barred Buttonquail, commonly called 'Boter' in the sub-continent was found in a village in Faridpur recently.

Buttonquail was earlier believed to have become extinct in Bangladesh, according to



the Nature Conservation Committee (NCC), a non-profit private organisation of birdwatcher. Finding of a pair of this rare species in Bongshwardi village under Boalmari thana by a birdwatcher has raised great interest among the members of the NCC.

According to Shajahan Sardar, secretary of the NCC, Buttonquail is a six-inch ground-dwelling bird of grassland and scrub. From a distance, a Buttonquail may be mistaken for a month-old chicken straying in the wilderness. Only a close look reveals its distinctive dark bars on the round brown body with a tiny tail. A female Buttonquail is slightly larger than the male and is more prominently barred. The male incubates the eggs and raises the chicks.

### Hasina condoles deaths in KL plane crash

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of 50 passengers in an accident of a Malaysian flight, reports UNB.

In a message of condolence sent to Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Bin Mohammad, she also expressed deep sympathy for the bereaved families and prayed for salvation of the departed souls.

### Gold worth Tk 13 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered three kilogram of gold worth Taka 13 lakh from an incoming passenger yesterday morning.

The customs surveillance team recovered 17 gold bars and 55 gold chains after searching Abu Baker, 32, son of Faizul Kabir of Raizan. He reached Dhaka by a Gulf Air flight from Bahrain at about 9:30 am, sources said.

A department case has been filed.

### Bangladesh Scouts offer course on management

The Bangladesh Scouts invite applications from young boys and girls, who are not associated with scouting, for a 72-hour intensive 'career planning and management course', says a press release.

Students of minimum degree classes of any discipline are eligible to apply. The maximum age limit is 26 years as of September 1, 1995.

Interested persons have been requested to apply in their own handwriting on A-4 size paper to the executive secretary, Bangladesh Scouts, 70/1 Inner Circular Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 by September 25 along with a copy of passport size photograph.

### ADMISSION CENTRE FOR BUSINESS STUDIES

**EVENING SHIFT (5.00 TO 7.30)**

- # ACCOUNTING - A LEVEL, Exam Jan 1997.
- # BUSINESS STUDIES - A LEVEL, Exam June 1997

**MORNING SHIFT (9.00 TO 12.30)**

- # BENGALI - Exam-Jan 1996
- # ACCOUNTING-A LEVEL, Exam-Jan 1997
- # MATH, SYL-A, O' LEVEL, Exam-May 1996

Class starts from 1st October 1995, Application deadline 25th September 1995.

**CONTACT:** Road No. 28 Old, 15 new, House No. 392 Old, 3/A new Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1209, Phone: 810633.

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

An International organisation invites applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following position in its Dhaka Office. The position carry an attractive salary and benefits package.

**Computer Programmer:** The successful candidate will be required to design and maintain management and information system; and to provide computing services and training.

Applicants must have a degree in engineering or any other relevant discipline from a recognised institution. Applicants with degree in Computer Science / Engineering or Electrical / Electronics Engineering will be preferred.

Applicants should have 5 years working experience in Management Information System with a solid background in programming using FoxPro/Dbase under DOS both MS & MS Windows environment. Programming knowledge in Fortran / BASIC/C++ is desirable. Applicants should have sufficient knowledge of SPSS, WordPerfect, Lotus 1-2-3, Harvard Graphics under DOS & Windows environment to support all users of the organisations. Knowledge of Macintosh is also preferred.

The above position will be required to travel for field work in rural areas on a monthly basis.

Applications with bio-data including names and addresses of three referees should be sent to **Box No. A-66 C/O. Daily Star by 01 October 1995.**

Only candidates who meet the specific requirements are encouraged to apply. Candidates shortlisted for interview will receive response.

**Women are especially encouraged to apply**

### Weather

#### Moderate rain likely

Most of the places of Khulna and Barisal divisions may experience occasional moderate to moderately heavy rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at many places over Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions and few place over Rajshahi division.

Met Office forecast that day temperature may fall by 1.2 degree Celsius throughout the country.

Weather is likely to improve in the next two days. While giving an extended outlook for another two days weathermen predicted a little change.

The country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Bogra, Sylhet and Dinajpur and the lowest 24 degrees at Barisal yesterday.

Sun sets today at 6.01 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:46 am.

### BCS (edn) slates appointment criteria

The BCS General Education Association demanded the appointment of director general of secondary and higher education on the basis of seniority, says a press release.

An association statement said that since it is the highest cadre post in general education it should be filled up on seniority basis as per rules.

They also said that the Education Department has lost its efficiency and administrative balance, and the cadre members are largely discontent as appointments have been made to almost all important posts on personal choice for the last few years.

### Bangladesh Railway Engineering Department (West Zone) Local Tender Notice

Tender No. Eng/Addl. Facilities/Sleeper Dated: 10-9-95

Sealed tenders are invited from the reputed contractors/timber merchant/supplier for the following works:

Sl No	Name of works	Approx. cost	Earnest money
1.	Group 'A': Supply of 2050 Nos. (6,406.25 Cft.) Broad Gauge standard wooden sleepers for extension of 6 Nos. loops	38.75 lakhs	2% of the quoted price
2.	Group 'B': Supply of 3430 Nos. (10,718.75 Cft.) Broad Gauge standard wooden sleepers for Casual Renewal of both up and down line from Darsona to Darsona Border	64.83 lakhs	-do-
3.	Group 'C': Supply of 2904 Cft. Special Broad Gauge wooden sleeper for extension of 6 Nos. Loops	17.71 lakhs	-do-
4.	Group 'D': Supply of 6236 Cft. Special Broad Gauge wooden sleeper for extension of 9 Nos. loops and one shunting neck.	38.04 lakhs	-do-

Tender documents will be available for sale from the office of the Track Supply Officer/West, Bangladesh Railway, Rajshahi, Track Supply Officer/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong and Executive Engineer/Project/Track, Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka up to 05-10-95 on all working days with deposit of non-refundable sum of Taka 750/- (Seven hundred fifty) per set. Dropping and opening time 12.00 hours and 12.30 hours on 9-10-95 in the offices mentioned above. Railway authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender as a whole or part without assigning any reason whatsoever.

RPRD-No-290 dt. 12-09-95 For Chief Engineer/West Bangladesh Railway Rajshahi D-898

### কুমিল্লা সুলতান স্বাদেশী শস্য চিনতে ২৩ ধনা

কুটির শিল্পের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের গ্রামীণ দুঃস্থ মহিলাদের আশ্রয়-কর্মসংস্থান (সিরোটাসি) প্রকল্প

১২৮, মালেক ম্যানশন (৮ম তলা), মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

#### পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিরোটাসি প্রকল্পের অফিস ইকুইপমেন্ট এবং অডিও ভিজুয়াল ইকুইপমেন্ট ক্রয়ের জন্য পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান

বাংলাদেশ কুমিল্লা সুলতান শিল্প কর্পোরেশন (বিসিক) এর আওতাভুক্ত কুটির শিল্পের মাধ্যমে বাংলাদেশের গ্রামীণ দুঃস্থ মহিলাদের আশ্রয়-কর্মসংস্থান (সিরোটাসি) প্রকল্পের অফিস ইকুইপমেন্ট এবং অডিও ভিজুয়াল ইকুইপমেন্ট (ফটোকপিয়ার, মাইক্রো কম্পিউটার, ডট মেট্রিক প্রিন্টার, সেক্সার প্রিন্টার, অটোমেটিক ভোল্টেজ স্টেবিলাইজার, ইউ পি এস, রিভিন টেলিভিশন, ডিসিআর, ডিভিও ক্যামেরা, ডুপ্লিকেশন মেশিন, টাইপরাইটার) ক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত এজেন্ট/প্রস্তুতকারী/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের সিকট থেকে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাবে।

দরপত্রের বিস্তারিত শর্ত ও তথ্য সর্ভলিভ সিভিটিল নম্বর ১০০.০০ (একশত) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে প্রকল্পের প্রধান কার্যালয়, মালেক ম্যানশন (৮ম তলা), ১২৮, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা এর অর্থ বিভাগ থেকে আপাদী ৩০ শে সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (৮:০০-২:০০ মিনিট) সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। দরপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখে কোন সিভিটিল বিক্রয় করা হবে না।

দরপত্র আপাদী ১লা অক্টোবর, ১৯৯৫ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ মিনিটে মধ্যে প্রকল্পের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে প্রকল্প সমন্বয়কারীর দপ্তরে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাজে জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্র প্রদানই বেলা ১২:০০ টায় দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন। খোলা হবে।

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল বা গ্রহণ করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিসিক/অফিস/৩/৯৫(৩৮)

DFP-21986-11/9 প্রজেক্ট কো-অর্ডিনেটর সিরোটাসি প্রকল্প G-1150

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Facilities Department, Ministry of Education Chittagong Zone, Chittagong Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 07/Ctg-Z/DF/1995-96 Date: 06-09-95

Tenders under sealed cover in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from A-1 & A-2 class enlisted contractors/firms of Facilities Department for completion of the undermentioned work.

**Head: Science Project**

**B) Description of work:**

Gr No	Name of Institution/description of work	Estimated cost (Taka)	Earnest money	Price of tender document	Category of contractor	Time limit for completion of work
01	Construction of 3rd floor, sewerage line, electrical & related works, including partial work of the new three-storey building of Haji AB Govt College.	12,93,769/16	26,000/-	750/-	A-1, A-2	5 (five) months

Tender document including all relevant papers will be sold at prescribed price in cash (non-refundable) from all Zonal Executive Engineers' offices under Facilities Department, Chittagong Circle during office hours on all working days up to 27-09-95 and tenders will be received at the same offices up to 12:00 Noon of 28-09-95 and opened on the same day at 12-15 minutes in presence (if any) of the contractors.

**Instructions to tenderers:**

- Those who have failed to complete work within prescribed time under earlier work order, cannot purchase the tender document.
- Any rate quoted below more than 5% (five per cent) of the scheduled rate will render invalid outright.
- Those who have not deposited renewal fee during 1995-96 financial year, cannot purchase the tender document.
- Photocopy of the licence book (attested) should be attached with the tender documents.
- Income Tax & VAT will be deducted from bill as per Govt rules.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-22051-11/9 K P Kar Executive Engineer G-1349

### Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES

ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA. PHONES: 894771-9, 894730-4, CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BJ, FAX: 880-2-893028

Stores & Purchase Directorate

Ref: DACPB/RE-INT'L TENDER/001/95/ Dated: 23-08-95

#### Re-International Tender

Sealed tender is hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines from manufacturers/suppliers/local agents/indentors for supply of following items:

Sl No	TENDER NUMBER	DESCRIPTION OF GOODS	COST OF SCHEDULE
01.	DACPB/RE-INT'L TENDER/001/95 DATED 23-08-95	PAPER HAND TOWEL, DINNER & SNACK TRAY MAT	TK 1000/- or USD .25/- PER SET

Tender schedule with detailed/specifications, terms and conditions will be available at a cost of USD 25/- or BDT 1000/- per set for which an application in Company's Letter Head Pad addressed to Accounts Officer, Cash & Banking, Biman Admin Building, Zia International Airport, Dhaka, Asst. Manager, (Cash & Banking) Biman Head Office, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka as well as with Finance Manager, Biman, Singapore, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Frankfurt, Paris, London, Rome, Amsterdam & New York on cash payment (Non-refundable) on all working days up to 18-10-95.

The last date of tender submission is 19-10-95. Biman Management reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tender, increase or decrease the quantity of item (s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

DFP-22307-13/9 Dy General Manager S&P (Commercial) G-1353