

# Local imitation jewellery fails to enter posh stores

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Unavailability of raw materials is proving a hindrance to the growth of the imitation jewellery industry in Dhaka.

Imitation jewellery is made of different metals, especially zinc coated with golden or silver colour that looks exactly like gold or silver jewellery.

About 15 years ago a section of jewellers started making imitation jewellery in the city. Now the industry has almost 150 entrepreneurs based in Nawabganj, Amiligola and some other areas of Old Dhaka.

Salespersons at different markets of Dhaka informed that locally made artificial jewellery was popular among people of the low-income group as it was much cheaper than the imported ones.

"In most cases it is the maids, garment factory workers and other people with less purchase capacity who happily opt for local imitation jewellery," said Mohammed Osman Gani who runs a departmental store at Dhaka

Cantonment.

"Customers with money prefer buying imported imitation jewellery from posh shopping stores," he added.

Price range of local imitation products begins from Tk 5 and stretches up to Tk 50. They are available even at wayside stalls or pavements in the city.

"Those who can afford imported imitation jewellery from India, China, Singapore, Thailand etc. do not buy local imitation as it gets discoloured easily," said Khondaker Saiful Islam Manik of Raj Store in Dhaka New Market.

Only metal churi (bangles) among local imitation received a positive response from customers.

"I don't consider myself dressed up properly for any occasion without wearing Jonaki churi or Rinjihini Churi," said Shakila Shireen who was buying local metal bangles at Gousia Market. However, she said she does not like local imitation apart from the bangles as most are fragile and do not glitter like real gold as Indian imitations do.

When inquired most of the imitation jewellery industry owners at Chawkbazar admitted that their products were of inferior quality to the foreign ones.

They said that unavailability of necessary chemicals prevents them from making quality products.

"We have to import raw materials from India and China. Especially a chemical called Anod is a must for colouring imitation jewellery into golden or silver," said Nazir Hossain, owner of Ali Products.

He informed that price of Anod, which is imported from Italy, has been increased recently by some importers.

"Earlier we used to buy Anod for Tk 700 to 800 per Kg which is now being sold for Tk 1400 per Kg," Nazir said.

The entrepreneurs said the imitation jewellery industry could improve if raw materials were easily available to them. Moreover, they said foreign imitation jewellery especially Indian imitation jewellery should be prevented from entering indiscriminately into the local markets.



Locally made artificial jewellery attracts only the low-income group.

# No more new minibuses and human-haulers

SULTANA RAHMAN

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has decided to halt permitting new minibuses and human-haulers to be brought out on the city roads.

The decision was taken recently in a meeting of the Road Transport Committee (RTC). The Dhaka Transport Coordination Board

(DTCB) has repeatedly recommended banning minibuses and human-haulers from the city roads for reducing traffic congestion as well as to increase capacity of roads.

Huge volume of small vehicles including minibuses and human-haulers are not only occupying the maximum road space but also carrying a limited number of passengers. These mini transports are one of the main

causes of poor capacity of city roads.

According to BRTA statistics, 1575 human-haulers in 45 different routes and 1900 minibuses in 48 routes are now plying in the city. Unofficial sources claimed that the numbers of such vehicles were higher as many of them run without legal papers.

BRTA sources said route permit would be given to those minibuses and haulers that

have submitted application by January 25 this year and no new permit will be issued. Moreover, worn out vehicles will not be eligible for renewal of route permit.

It was agreed in the meeting that CNG-driven buses with 50 seats will get preference in near future to ply on the roads as part of the 'off-rickshaw city' program to curb traffic congestion.



Minibuses and human-haulers occupy 'maximum road space but carry a fewer number of passengers'.



# Plan for piped arsenic free water by June

The new system is expected to be better and less expensive than setting up deep tubewells

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Arsenic Water Mitigation Supply (BAMWSP) and World Bank plan to introduce piped water system in rural areas in the country to ensure arsenic free water.

The Project Director of BAMWSP Md. Khoda Bux said initially six villages in different geographical locations will get water supply under a pilot project by June this year to test the actual costs, speed of implementation and technical feasibility.

"Initiatives will be taken to implement piped water in more areas if the pilot projects shows expected result," he said.

BMWSP, a project under Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) conducted its survey in 189 upazilas since it started working in 1998. The survey said that about 0.77 million of 2.54 million tubewells in the upazilas were contaminated with arsenic. It also mentioned that about 0.33 million tubewells were supplying arsenic contaminated water in the other 80 upazilas screened by other survey groups.

"According to World Health Organisation, a human body can tolerate only 10 mcg of arsenic in a litre of water but given Bangladesh's context we

consider 50 mcg of arsenic as tolerable level," the project director said.

He said earlier BAMWSP used to offer software support like screening of houses and tubewells and making people aware of the arsenic.

"But now we are trying for real mitigation work by supplying them safe water," he said.

The project authority believe that the new piped water system will be better than providing rural people with tubewells as it had done earlier. It said piped water system will have power operated pump houses supplying running water to every household connected to it.

"It would be less expensive than setting up deep tubewells," said the project director. "Initially it may cost about Tk 30 to 50 lakh to set up a pump house but overall it will cost less than providing tubewells to individuals," he added.

Moreover, it would make water treatment easier if there is single water supply point. Consumers would not need to purify water if it is purified before supplying."

BAMWSP also plans to initially lease out such power pumps non government organisations for 15 years. Afterwards it would be handed over to local people for operation.

## healthouting, taxicab & train timing

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

**Heart**  
National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59

**Burn**  
Dhaka Medical College Hospital Burn Unit-8626812-6

**Cancer**  
National Cancer Institute- 8014914, 8826561-65  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9

**Diabetes**  
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50

**Mother & Child Care**  
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62

Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

**Eye**  
Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315  
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807

**Dental**  
Dental College -9002035

**Orthopaedics**  
National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150

**General**  
Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6  
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819

Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25  
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital-

8612550-4, 8614545-9  
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202, Shamarita Hospital- 9131901  
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69  
Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6  
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDRB)- 8811751-60  
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

**Blood Bank**  
Red Crescent Centre- 9116563  
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040  
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022  
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

**Eye Bank**  
Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

### MARKET CLOSED

Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday  
Elephant Road-Friday  
Bishal Center-Friday  
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday  
Polwell Market-Friday  
BCS Computer City-Friday  
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.  
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday  
Stadium Market-Friday  
Bangabazar Market-Friday  
National Museum-Thursday  
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.  
New Market-Tuesday  
Gausia Market-Tuesday  
Mouchak Market-Sunday  
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday  
Eastern Plaza-Sunday  
Farmview Super Market-Sunday  
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday  
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday  
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### TAXI CAB

#### Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065  
Salida 9344477, 0171620881  
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191  
Cab One 7113282-3  
Nihon 8624741-2  
Orion 9347277  
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

#### TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express  
Mahanagar Prabhati  
Mahanagar Godhuli  
Turna  
Parabat Express  
Joyantika Express  
Upaban Express  
Tista Express  
Ekata Express  
Upakul Express  
Padma Express

Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:30 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 3:05 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 11:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 6:30 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 12:30 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:30 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 7:00 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 5:00 pm  
Leaves Dhaka at 6:00 am  
Leaves Dhaka at 9:20 pm

#### Black Cab

Capital 9352847  
Union 8130485  
Kool 0171826731  
Cab Ex 9358401  
Cabline 8321162  
JBS Cab 019364575  
Sajan 018126036

#### LIBRARY & INFO

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611  
Cab One 7113282-3  
Palki 0171052500  
Cab I 7113282  
Jatri 0171540074  
Nipun 9572277  
R-Cab 8914782  
Star Cab 9571919

#### Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers

Central Public Library- 8626001-4,  
Shishu Academy- 9564128  
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673  
Bangla Academy- 8619550  
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407  
Nazrul Institute- 9114602  
Ford Foundation- 8116133  
Alliance Francaise- 8611557  
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7  
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604  
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6  
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096  
The Russian Cultural Centre-