



Poly-packed water fever seems to be running among the common people because of the pack's relatively cheap price, but unaware of its quality.

## Mineral water users beware!

CITY CORRESPONDENT.

Some mineral water companies are reportedly marketing poly-packed water at a lower price without ensuring the standard set by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI).

Very few brands are maintaining the standard quality and many are allegedly marketing their own products which are exposing people to water-borne diseases.

Karnaphuli, Pipasa, ATN are some of the most prominent brands in poly-packed mineral water. But the BSTI has reportedly accused Karnaphuli of marketing below standard water. It has also declared Essential, Reliable, Saver, Paramount, Tide and Jamjam brands as substandard

and advised people against drinking their water.

Common people are attracted to poly-packed water for their relatively cheaper price compared to water in plastic bottles. But most of the companies do not even have BSTI clearance marks on their poly-packs.

Some manufacturers have no authentic certificates to show but are still marketing their products.

"We receive poly-packed and bottled water from the representatives of the companies. We do not check the quality or legal aspects of the products," admitted Badshah Miah, a department store keeper at Garden Road.

A recent research of the Water, Soil and Environment Department of the Dhaka University

revealed that most of the mineral water companies do not ensure the desired standards.

The research included nine top listed mineral water brands such as Duncan, Mum, Himaloy, Acqua, Super Fresh, Pran, Jibon, Libra and Everest. Alarming enough only one brand could pass the standard test.

"We have our ways of taking action against illegal companies and our mobile court is working to identify the criminals. Some people are marketing mineral water without seeking permission from the BSTI," said Saiful Islam, assistant director of BSTI.

"Anyone can sell their products in an established market system. We are working to resist low standards and illegal mineral water marketing," the official added.

PHOTO STAR

## DMP to set up 40 check posts to check traffic jam in Ramadan

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has decided to set up check posts at 40 points in the city to tackle traffic congestion during the month of Ramadan.

The law enforcers are now taking necessary preparation for it as a Traffic Week started on October 9 to aware people about traffic rules and regulations.

According to DMP traffic department, there are at least 28 reasons of traffic congestion in the city.

One of the causes is the garbage randomly piled up on the street. The garbage containers and garbage thrown beside the containers are reducing the width of roads. Illegal establishments on the roads and footpaths also contribute to the severe traffic jam.

Atikullah, a ward commissioner in city's Jatrabari area, said illegal establishments are being constructed in front of the police but they hardly take any action.

Mozammel Haq Mukta,

commissioner of ward no 75, however believes the ward commissioners have a role to play in reducing traffic congestion. "We will evict the illegal markets on Abhoy Das Lane road before Ramadan and also monitor garbage dumping of the road."

The authorities are taking some other measures to contain traffic congestion. These include hawker eviction, ban on illegal autorickshaws and rickshaws, widening of roads, construction of railing on footpaths, making some roads one-way and establishment of 18 traffic help centres.

According to a DMP (Traffic) source, the city has 3,002 km road with 376 intersections, crossings and turnings where 2,104 traffic police are engaged in maintaining traffic movement. Besides, some 400 Ansar and 150 community police are working to help them. Every year 23,787 vehicles are added to the already exhausted city, a DMP survey says.



Rickshaws that cause most traffic jams are frequently targeted to be banned in a bid to reduce congestion.

## Clean Dhaka Initiative in progress

MANISHA GANGOPADHYAY

Ward no 6 in Mirpur and ward no 65 in Old Dhaka have been designated as the two experimental sites for the Clean Dhaka Initiative aiming to raise awareness and involvement of people in keeping the city clean.

As part of the Initiative, non-governmental organisations in collaboration with local residents are conducting community workshops and seminars for generating people's awareness on solid waste management (SWM).

The end goal of the Initiative, launched by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and Dhaka City Cooperation (DCC) in July this year, is to shift the responsibility of primary waste disposal to local people.

In the course of the project, Jica and DCC will also learn the needs of the community to implement the Clean Dhaka Initiative.

The findings of the Clean Dhaka Initiative pilot project will inform a SWM Master Plan expected to be completed in February 2005.

"Solid waste management is one of the biggest problems to be solved for mega-cities like Dhaka," believes Dr Akinori Sato, deputy team leader of the Jica study team on the Clean Dhaka Master Plan.

According to one DCC expert, 500gm of solid waste are produced per person per day in Dhaka, totalling 5,000 tons a day.

Jica and DCC jointly arranged a town hall meeting in Mirpur ward-6 on October 7 to present the Clean Mirpur Initiative as part the solid waste management project to promote the seven points of the pilot project on community-based waste management.

The first three points of the initiative involve encouraging community members to change their old habits and honour community waste management rules. The other points stress joint collection and disposal of waste in predetermined areas instead of throwing in random places, and recycling of the waste where possible.

"It takes the cooperation of city management and local people to keep Dhaka clean," said Arai Akio, resident representative of the Jica in Bangladesh.

The local level primary waste management is part of a greater plan for solid waste management, where DCC will be responsible for secondary waste collection and management.

According to Jica experts, Old Dhaka and Mirpur were chosen as the initial sites of the pilot project as they are complex areas representing larger Dhaka and it

would therefore, reveal the widest spread of possible problems that larger Dhaka might have.

Thereafter the project will be extended to other parts of Dhaka city.

"One reflects a spontaneously developed congested neighbourhood while the other is a planned neighbourhood with communities of mixed economic classes," observes Dr Sato.

Jica claims that a primary component to understanding the solid waste problem is understanding the differing patterns of solid waste disposal among people of different economic classes.

"When we expand our project to other communities, we want to make sure no

surprises come that we are unprepared for or unfamiliar with," explains Dr Sato.

The panelists of the Mirpur ward-6 meeting included, among others, City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Ambassador of Japan Matsushiro Horiguchi, local Ward Commissioner Ahsan Ullah Hasan, DCC and Jica officials.

Asked if he believes this project has so far been effective, Ahsan Ullah Hasan responds: "Look how many people from all over Mirpur who braved the terrible rainstorm to come to this meeting. This shows the commitment of our people to uphold the goals of a Clean Mirpur Initiative. I am optimistic that Jica and DCC will be successful."



Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka speaks at the Clean Dhaka initiative at Ward No. 6 in Mirpur launched by Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) and Dhaka City Corporation.

## healthouting, taxicab & train timing

### HEALTH

#### Hospitals

**Heart**  
National Institute of Cardio Vascular 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 (BIRDDEM)- 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- 911075, 9112150

#### General

Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6

Rushmoni 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 College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6

Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR,B)- 8811751-60

Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135

#### Blood Bank

Red Crescent Centre- 9116563

Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040

Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7319022

Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9

#### Eye Bank

Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040

#### Ambulances For

#### Dead Body

Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrall)

9336611, Gandaria 7319808,

Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday

Dhaka Zoo-Sunday

Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

### MARKET CLOSED

### TAXI CAB

### Yellow Cab

Navana 9558065

Salida 934477, 0171620881

Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191

Cab One 7113282-3

Nihon 8624741-2

Orion 9347277

Anudip 8125285 and 8127611

Capital 9352847

### TRAIN TIMING

### TRAIN TIMING

Subarna Express

Mahanagar Prabhati

Mahanagar Godhuli

Turna

Parabat Express

Joyantika Express

Upabon Express

Tista Express

Ekata Express

Upakul Express

Agnibena Express

Union 8130485

Kool 0171826731

Black Cab

Cab Ex 9358401

Cabline 8321162

JBS Cab 019364575

Sajan 018126036

Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

KGN 8620011

Cab One 7113282-3

Palki 0171052500

Cab I 7113282

Jatri 0171540074

Nipun 9572277

R-Cab 8914782

Star Cab 9571919

Shihab 018202477 & 018228675

KGN 8620011

Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 11:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 10:55 pm

Reaches Chittagong at 6:40 am</