

Bakarkhani is a tiny crispy loaf of bread -- entirely Dhaka's original production. The bread was named after Baker, who made it first. Aga Baker or Aga Bakir Kha was zamindar of Bhati. The district of Balkharganj was also named after him. Aga Sadik was his son. Bakarkhani was first created around the 18th century. It is still being made in the old part of Dhaka.

## Lack of road safety causes accidents on Rokeya Sarani

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

After a road accident that severely injured a schoolboy three weeks ago, the authorities promised to take measures to prevent accidents on Rokeya Sarani near Sher-e-bangla Nagar Government Boys High School, but nothing has been done so far.

The school administration and teachers said they are waiting for the road safety measures promised by the ward commissioner and the officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and the traffic division of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

Nahid Hasan, a student of Class III, was struck by a speeding microbus near the school on May 15. The 10-year-old boy survived with numerous fractures in bones. He may become crippled for life, said Mosharraf Hossain, one of his teachers.

The school had lost another student a few years back when a truck hit him on the same road. The teachers said lack of necessary traffic policemen, road sign and zebra crossing on the road cause frequent accidents in the area.

After the May 15 accident, local ward (no 41) commissioner Abu Bakar Siddique visited the school and assured the teachers and students of taking necessary steps with the help of DCC and DMP, to ensure safety of the students.

"But they did not take any step in this regard," said Nazmun Nahar Shaheen, headmistress of the school, expressing utter

**Accidents are frequent in and around the IDB Bhaban because of inadequate precautions.**

dissatisfaction.

The school administration received a letter from the DMP traffic division stating that two additional traffic policemen would be deployed there. They also got an assurance of installing traffic signs and zebra cross-

ing near the school by May 21.

Currently, only one traffic constable controls traffic near the school. A traffic sergeant usually performs his duty at nearby Agargaon bus-stand. But they cannot check reckless driving of buses and trucks on the VIP road.

After every accident, the students vented their anguish by damaging vehicles on the road. They protested the inactive role of the traffic department and the DCC. The parents also expressed their resentment on the issue.

Most parents now accompany their sons while going to school and returning home. "I have to do this for safety of my son," said Archana, mother of a student.

Senior officials at the DMP traffic division said they have already approved the plan for

taking necessary road safety measures near the school.

The ward commissioner, when contacted, assured of keeping his promises. "We will implement the procedures very soon," said Siddique, the commissioner.



SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

### city express

The latest crop of quotes from the city's press -- words worth repeating, we feel, for their humour, insight or sheer outrageousness. Star City does not necessarily support the opinions expressed in this column.



"I admit that I have done injustice. The position I took to discontinue the scopes of whitening black money was right. But some issues needed to be readjusted for the sake of the country and people and it (whitening black money) was one of them"

-- M Saifur Rahman  
Finance and Planning Minister  
Told journalists at a post-budget briefing at the National Economic Council Conference room, on June 10.  
Source: The Daily Star

"We, the mayors of the six city corporations will have a meeting within the next few months to formulate a joint plan for the corporations. Then we will submit it to the government. It may be named either a 'city government' or anything like that"

-- Sadeque Hossain Khoka  
Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation  
Told reporters at a programme at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium explaining his opinion on proposed city government by the mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, on June 7.  
Source: The Daily Star

"She (Bidisha) may be accused of criminal offences, but why are the police torturing a woman in such a way?"



-- Sheikh Hasina  
Leader of the Opposition and Awami League Chief  
Said when family members of slain Jubo League leader Sumon met her at her Dhanmondi residence, on June 8.  
Source: The Daily Star

"It was her misconduct and arrogance that made me take a harsh decision. How can I have a wife who has another husband"

-- HM Ershad  
Former president and chairman of Jatiya Party  
Told journalists at Zia International Airport before he flew off to Saudi Arabia, on June 6.  
Source: The Daily Star

"This government gives bullet proof jacket to terrorist Arman but gives bullet to innocents"

-- Motia Chowdhury  
Leader of Awami League  
Told a gathering in Mirpur in the city, on June 11. Source: Prothom Alo



## DCC to install 50 more wheeled garbage containers



A wheeled garbage container in the New Market area.

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is going to install 50 more wheeled garbage containers soon in the city to make its waste management system more effective and convenient for city dwellers.

The covered and wheeled containers are made locally at a cost of Tk 3 lakh, said a high official at the mechanical division of the DCC.

"We have not yet selected the places to install these containers. But these are needed in the areas like Karwan Bazar and Santinagar kitchen markets that produce huge amount of garbage," said DCC's Chief Conservancy Officer Sohel Farouque.

DCC introduced wheeled garbage containers as a pilot project in July last year. The first such garbage container was kept behind New Market. DCC officials said the success of this project inspired them to install

more such containers.

Although DCC is trying to improve garbage management, it still depends on the cleaners who start work early in the morning, sweep roads and collect garbage.

A DCC official seeking anonymity said the city of about 1 crore people cannot be kept clean due to lack of manpower and infrastructure. The DCC has 7,156 cleaners for 82 wards -- less than 50 percent of the required manpower, he said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), at least two cleaners are required for every 1,000 dwellers even if modern garbage cleaning technology is available. The current ratio in Dhaka city is less than one cleaner for every 1,000 people.

The open garbage containers of DCC are not properly handled for waste disposal. "In most places people litter garbage around the open containers instead of throwing garbage

inside those," said Alimul Haque, a resident of Rajarbagh.

Another problem in waste disposal is the manual transportation of garbage that makes the areas around the containers unclean as the garbage in wheelbarrows is thrown onto the road and hauled into the garbage carrying trucks.

But the wheeled containers having a ramp at the back will enable cleaners to push wheelbarrows inside it and unload waste inside. "It will leave the places around containers free of garbage," Farouque said.

He however said DCC cleaners have to be more active in removing and cleaning garbage to ensure best use of the wheeled containers.

He said lack of washing plant hampers cleaning of garbage containers, when asked about the first wheeled container behind New Market that remains dirty. "We are planning to set up washing plants at Matuati to resolve the problem," he said.

## DU to fight outbreak of jaundice

IMRUL HASAN

Finally the Dhaka University authorities have decided to clean all water reservoirs and reconstruct water and sewerage lines to fight jaundice that broke out recently inflicting several hundred students living in different dormitories.

"We have already taken various steps. The hall provosts and house tutors are supervising the cleanliness programme," said Prof SMA Faiz, the vice-chancellor of DU.

In November last year, about 500 students of Jasimuddin, Ziaur Rahman and Bangabandhu halls were

affected by jaundice and two of them died.

As the DU authorities did not take any effective steps instantly, the disease continued to affect students. On average five patients are going to the university medical centre every day for treatment. Last week 36 jaundice patients were detected.

Doctors at the medical centre blame contaminated water for the outbreak.

"In these hot and humid days, students drink sugarcane juice from the vendors which may also cause jaundice," said Dr Syed Ullah, a senior medical officer of DU.

The students said the water supplied in the halls cause the

**The provost of Jasimuddin Hall said the germs of jaundice inflict the students who take unhygienic foods and drinks from roadside restaurants in and around the campus**

disease.

"I have been suffering for three days. My blood test report is positive and doctors have advised me to take rest," said Saidul Islam, a student.

The VC on May 25 held a meeting with hall provosts and house tutors and decided to take various measures to fight the frequent outbreak of jaundice.

"We are trying to build awareness among our students. We have asked them not to drink water or eat food from outside," said Mahbubur Rahman, provost of Jasimuddin Hall.

He said the germs of jaundice inflict the students who take unhygienic foods and drinks from

roadside restaurants in and around the campus.

"Drinking boiled water is a solution. So we have taken steps to reserve boiled water in plastic tanks for serving to the students," he added.

Students allege most of the canteens and dining rooms of the halls remain in dirty condition as the process of cooking and washing dishes is very unhygienic.

The authorities do not take any action against the dining and canteen management. The canteen managers however said they try to keep the canteens clean.



Unclean environment and unhealthy diets in DU canteens are causes in rise of jaundice victims.

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