

Dhaka Day by Day Breakfast at Sunset

by Sabah Chowdhury



An array of iftar items await the buyers to take home

— Star photo

An 18th century book on the city of Delhi, says it most. Describing the Mughal capital at the time of Ramzan it states: 'The people are overwhelmed by the opportunity to serve God through penitence and fasting. The body suffers but the soul is glad. The hunger pangs are towers of faith within a Mussalman. Voices are not raised in anger and eating is confined only to the disbelievers. But as the azan is heard after sunset, Delhi is transformed. The city becomes joyous and merry. Feasts are held in every house and shops sell the most outlandish delicacies which people buy with great fervour. The bazaar is alive throughout and continues till another call asks the faithful to fast again.'

Dhaka is not Delhi in many ways but the spirit is much the same. Ramzan and fasting is taken very seriously and the rituals of eating at midnight, or before sunrise (Sehri) and breaking the fast at the time of sunset (iftar), along with the regular and extra prayers are the most ritualised period in the life of a Muslim. And so in many ways the city too follows its own rituals and responds with its individual rhythm. But to most people the period of Ramzan means days which are divided between Sehri and iftar. While the earlier one is completed mostly at home, the latter has the flavour of a public feast. And never mind if housewives and cooks labour over the fire for hours concocting delicacies not done so much in other times of the year.

The food items are often common in many parts of the entire sub-continent. Fried and boiled chick-peas, gram, and such items are eaten in most roadside shops. But Dhaka naturally has its own particular flavour in this month of the Muslim calendar at this time.

Onion fritters are 'peazu' egg-plant fritters are 'Beguni', potato fritters are 'Alori', and nowadays it is vegetables lining up to be frittered away. Deep frying is the essence of this month. Chhola (chick-peas) and deep frying from the core of the evening feast but the fast is broken by having iced fruit juices and other kinds of 'Sherbats'. During summer, Ramzan trade in the ice sector is brisk. It is unusual to see even children haunched over a large chunk of ice, breaking it into small pieces and separating it with sawdust as it prevents melting. And eventually selling it to thirsty neighbourhood and learning to be entrepreneurs.

But the crown of the feast belongs to 'Halim'. It is said that like Rome 'Halim' can't be made in a day. A large mix of lentils, bone, meat (mutton), wheat and practically all the spices which the orient can offer is added, in large doses and then cooked till 'something rich and strange' finally emerges out of it all. Preserved in large vats and sold in earthen pots, it is the ultimate delicacy which remains in the memory of all till the next Ramzan comes. Because, although 'Halim' is found in certain places throughout the year, it just never tastes like the one sold during the month of contenance.

Once upon a time, the old part of the city used to be famous for Ramzan food, but that monopoly is no longer there. Perhaps the best example relates to that of Chawkbazar Halim, central point for all good things to eat. The old city Halim is still good and the special Ramzan 'Tehari', or meat and rice cooked together with a mild selection of spices is often worthy enough to go all the way to buy. At Chawkbazar it is more the atmosphere rather than the taste. Nowadays, the throne of 'Halim' belongs to 'Mama Halim' made at unromantic Kalabagan. Incidentally it has become so popular that it has branches all over the city now. To this group is added 'kebabas' of different sorts, 'dahi bara' (cakes dipped in sour yoghurt and mixed sauces), among the sweets are the Jilapes (sweetmeats fried in sugar syrup eaten hot). The last two items are available all the year round, but like everything delicious becomes a part of 'iftar'.

What makes the city look different too, are the food stalls, which spring up spontaneously at every roadside and lanes. Even the big food outlets designs special 'iftar' packets and the best shops step outside and pile the foods on a table and sell off the street. The signs and boards proclaiming the excellence is a common and pleasant sight declaring that the city is itself celebrating with its citizens.

'Iftari' does not last forever and soon it's time for 'Tarabi' (prayers of Ramzan). Male devotees move towards the neighbouring mosques, and women lay out the prayer mats at home. Dusk and prayers quietly move into darkness and the faithful waits for another day of fasting with a joyous anticipation. A day of abstinence and restraint to end with an evening of release shared with family and relatives.

grammes to observe the Independence Day.

The programmes of the Dhaka University authority include hoisting of national flags atop the buildings on the campus, laying of wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar at 8 am and distribution of sweets to the children of the employees of the university at 9 am.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) has taken up a three-day long programme titled 'Independence Festival, 1991', which started from March 24.

DUCSU staged a drama 'Iblis' performed by the 'Aranyak Natya Goshthi' at the TSC in the second day of its festival.

DUCSU will inaugurate a name plate of the teachers, students and employees of the university in front of Madh's Canteen and organise a concert in front of the Registrar's building as part of their programmes.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will lay floral wreaths at the National Mausoleum today (Tuesday) observe the Independence Day.

Mohiuddin denies blaming BNP for bomb attack

By Staff Correspondent
Mr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Additional Secretary, Monday protested a news item published in The Daily Star quoting him as saying that a particular party was responsible for the bomb attack on his house Sunday.

He had not directly or indirectly made any such allegation to anyone in this respect, he said, adding, only the police can who was responsible after investigations.

Bangladesh Civil Service Coordination Council condemned the bomb attack on residence of Dr Alamgir.

The council urged the authority to punish those responsible for creating disturbance in the way of smooth functioning of democracy.

The General Secretary of Bangladesh Project Management Institute condemned the attack and demanded immediate action of the government so that the persons responsible are taken to task immediately.

Bangladesh Economic Council also condemned the unpleasant incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals. Dr Alamgir is also the President of the Council.



PROGRAMME

Rotary Club Meet

Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka North West followed by iftar at the courtesy of Rtn. S. Afzal Hossain and Ann Hasina Afzal will be held tomorrow (Wednesday) at their residence at House No. 3A, Road No. 18, Barani, Dhaka.

Somoy Gosthi

The Somoy cultural organisation has chalked out elaborate programme to celebrate the Independence Day on March 26. It includes discussion meeting, to be presided over by Jahirul Islam Rumi, President of Somoy, cultural function and holding of an iftar. All programmes will be held at the organisation's office at 6/1, Naya Paltan.

Greetings to Khaleda

Karmachari Sangsad

The leaders of Dhaka City Corporation Karmachari Sangsad Sunday hailed Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina for becoming Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament respectively, a press release said, reports BSS.

President of the sangsad Khorshed Alam and General Secretary Shamsul Haq Bhuiyan said that the role played by both Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina in the anti-autocracy movement and for establishing democracy would be ever remembered by the people of the country.

UNAB

Professor M. Innas Ali, President, UNAB, Professor Salahuddin Ahmed, Chairman, INAB and Syed Ahmad Hossain, Secretary-General, United Nations Association of Bangladesh and Vice-President of the World Federation of United Nations Association have warmly congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia

Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) Sunday extended warm greetings to Begum Khaleda Zia on her appointment as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, reports UNB.



The BNP interviewing candidates for 30 women MPs in city on Monday. The party chief Khaleda Zia headed the interview board.

Independence Day Award given

Science yet to be a part of our culture: Shahabuddin

The Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on Monday appealed to all sections of the people to put in their hard and sincere labour to translate the dreams of the martyrs of the Liberation War into reality by making Bangladesh a prosperous country, reports BSS.

Addressing the Independence Day award giving ceremony at Bangabhaban here Monday morning, the Acting President said the martyrs had not only dreamed for achieving political freedom, but also for development of the socio-economic conditions of the toiling masses.

Justice Shahabuddin earlier formally awarded 'Swadhinnata Dibash Purushkar' -90 to Prof. Aminul Islam and Mohammad Yasin for their commendable contributions in the fields of science and technology and rural development and cooperatives.

The function was attended, among others, by members of the Council of Ministers, members of the Acting President's former Council of Advisers, MPs and high civil and military officials.

He said the practice of science has not become the part of national culture in our country, adding that although it was essential for meeting the demands of our big population in this context, the Acting President said the indigenous technology was essential for increasing production.

The Acting President congratulated the two recipients of this year's Swadhinnata Dibash Purushkar. He said such recognitions are not only to honour the persons but also to widen the collective welfare of the society.

He handed over a gold medal and Taka 25 thousand each to the recipients.

Prof. Aminul Islam, who received the award for his outstanding contributions in the

fields of science and technology was born in 1935 in Comilla district. He joined the Dhaka University as a Lecturer in Soil Science in 1956 and obtained his Phd degree from the United States in 1962.

During his career, Prof Islam held different posts in the Dhaka University and worked as Consultant to the World Bank and the United Nations. He was also the General Secretary of Science Development Society and contributed greatly to the development of his field. He has his credit about 100 works, published both at home and abroad.

He attended many international symposiums and seminars. Prof. Islam was given

President's Award for his research in agriculture in 1979.

Mohammad Yasin, who was given 'Swadhinnata Dibash Purushkar' this year, was born in 1935 in Comilla, a common villager, Mohammad Yasin established a small cooperative society in his village Kashinathpur-Balarampur in 1960 with a capital of only nine anna. His 'Deedar Cooperative Society' earned both national and international recognition for becoming the most successful cooperative society in the country. Without taking any donations from outside, Yasin's cooperative has now a capital of Taka one crore fifty lakh. He was given Ramon Magasaysay Award for his contributions in rural development in 1988.

Meat prices decline, rice static

By Staff Correspondent

Upward trend in prices of most essentials in city markets continued, while prices of some items like rice, meat and brinjal declined compared with the prices a week ago.

Prices of vegetable and pulses, particularly which are used for iftar, rose. Gram, a common item for iftar, is being sold at Tk. 18 to Tk. 20 a kg while two weeks ago it was sold at Taka 16 to Tk 18.

The price of lemon has increased sharply. Four lemons on Sunday sold at Tk. 10 to Tk 12. Before Ramzan it was only Tk 4 to Tk. 5.

Prices of different types of fish increased on an average by Taka 500 to 600 per maund over the prices 15 days ago. Small and medium-size hilshas are being sold at Tk. 5 to Tk. 10 more.

The prices of meat have de-

clined. Beef was sold on Sunday at Taka 50 a kg while mutton was at Tk. 80 to Tk 90 per kg.

Prices of other items including rice, motor, khesari remain static.

Mustard oil and soybean oil now sold at Taka 56 and Tk. 33 respectively. It was Tk. five and one taka more than previous rate.

Prices of rice did not rise further because as the government has started open market sales (OMS) to help maintain stable prices. Medium quality rice was sold Sunday between Tk. 13 to Tk. 15 a kg. The coarse varieties were sold at Taka 11 to Tk. 12.

Prices of toilet soaps have increased. Lux, Lifebuoy, Rexona and Cosco now cost one taka more.

23 granted honorary commission

Nine Honorary Lieutenants and 14 Junior Commissioned Officers have been granted honorary commission in the rank of Honorary Captain and Honorary Lieutenant respectively in active list of Bangladesh Army with effect from March 26, 1991, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Those, granted Honorary Commission in the rank of Honorary Captain are:

Honorary Lieutenant Abdul Sattar Miah, Artillery, Honorary Lieutenant Kasir Abul Kashem, Artillery, Honorary Lieutenant Farzall Hussain, East Bengal, Honorary Lieutenant Faizur Rahman, East Bengal, Honorary Lieutenant Azizur Rahman, East Bengal, Honorary Lieutenant Md Idris Khan, East Bengal, Honorary Lieutenant Abul Kashem, East Bengal, Honorary Lieutenant Munsur Ali Hawlader, East Bengal and Honorary Lieutenant Abdul Wahab, EME.

The recipients of Honorary Commission in the rank of Honorary Lieutenant are:

Risaldar Major Md Majibur Rahman, AC, Risaldar Major Anwar Hussain, AC, Subedar Major Abdul Razzaque, Artillery, Subedar Major Md Muzammel Haque, Artillery, Subedar Major Abdul Mannan Engineers, Subedar Major Abdul Rahim Majumder, East Bengal, Subedar Major Ahmed Hussain Sarker, East Bengal, Subedar Major Abdul Hal Mollah, East Bengal, Subedar Major Strajul Haque, East Bengal, Subedar Major Abdul Monaim, East Bengal, Subedar Major Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, East Bengal, Subedar Major Abdul Mannan Talukder, EME, Subedar Major Md Aminur Rahman Bhuiyan, AEC and Subedar Major Md Abdur Rahman, ACC.

Concern over 'Banga Sena' march

By Staff Correspondent

Muslim League (ML) has expressed concern over reports of 'Banga Sena' march towards Bangladesh border on Monday.

Md Ayenuddin, President of ML said the march was planned at the time when Foreign Secretary of India is coming to Bangladesh for better relations.

The conspiracy of establishing an independent state like 'Banga Bhumti' inside a sovereign and independent country is not only contradictory to international rules and regulations but also an indirect struggle against a sovereign country, he said.

It is also contradictory to SAARC spirit, he added.

The ML urged Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar to take steps to stop such activities inside India.

Elaborate DU programme on Independence Day

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authority, (DUCSU) and the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) have Central Students Union taken up elaborate programmes to observe the Independence Day.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues. ACROSS: 1 - of kindness, 4 Note of scale, 6 Leather belt, 11 Forested, 13 Hesitated, 15 - garde, 16 Burdensome, 18 Concerning, 19 Proceed, 21 Fireplace part, 22 Tense, 24 Permits, 26 Small children, 28 Employ, 29 Bay window, 31 Temporary shelter, 33 Teutonic deity, 34 Lump of earth, 36 Twofold, 38 Roberts ID, 40 Violin part, 42 Feel one's. DOWN: 5 Music variety, 7 "The --- Zone", 9 Highlander, 50 Exchange premium, 52 Entreaty, 54 That thing, 55 Niton symbol, 56 Spire, 59 Near, 61 - City, 63 Part of BLT, 65 San Francisco ballplayer, 66 That man, 67 Clearing implement, 10 Read, 12 - or die, 14 Hinder, 17 Disturbance, 20 Auricular, 23 - natural (uncial), 24 Behold!, 25 Of the same material, 27 Peacefully secure, 30 "Love a Duck", 32 Sailors' colloq., 35 Most profound, 37 Localities, 38 Miscellaneous act, 39 Rabbie; riffraff, 41 Story, 43 Salad variety, 44 Latin conjunction, 46 Greek letter, 48 - perception, 51 Greek peak, 53 Medicinal plant, 57 Make into leather, 58 Printer's measure, 60 Cover, 62 Nickel symbol, 64 Early morn.

Answer to Previous Puzzle
CAP MOOSE PAY
AGO INDIA LIE
RELATE TREATS
IRE SEEDY
PATE MP DIETS
AVE AURA TREE
RE ASSIGNS RA
ERRS STOA ISM
STATE EG IDES
REAPS ALE
EMERGE SPLASH
GAS LADES LEO
GAT ELITE SEW

DUCSU will inaugurate a name plate of the teachers, students and employees of the university in front of Madh's Canteen and organise a concert in front of the Registrar's building as part of their programmes.

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will lay floral wreaths at the National Mausoleum today (Tuesday) observe the Independence Day.

The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) has taken up a three-day long programme titled 'Independence Festival, 1991', which started from March 24.

DUCSU staged a drama 'Iblis' performed by the 'Aranyak Natya Goshthi' at the TSC in the second day of its festival. DUCSU will inaugurate a name plate of the teachers, students and employees of the university in front of Madh's Canteen and organise a concert in front of the Registrar's building as part of their programmes. The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) will lay floral wreaths at the National Mausoleum today (Tuesday) observe the Independence Day.

Weather

Dry weather likely

By Staff Correspondent

Temperature fell sharply in northern region where minimum temperature recorded in Dinajpur and Rajshahi, were 13.5 degrees Celsius and 15.5 degrees Celsius respectively on Monday.

Intermittent rain and north-westerly wind are the causes of this fall of temperature, Met office said.

Rain and shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind likely to occur at one or two places of Chittagong division and the region of Pabna, Jessore, Kushtia and Barisal, during the next 24 hours.

Weather likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

Met office forecast on Monday that weather may improve in next two days.

The day temperature was below normal in most parts of the country but no rainfall was reported.

Temperature recorded in important cities and towns of the country on Monday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature	Humidity in percentage
	max	9 am 6 pm
Dhaka	31.2	19.8 69 36
Chittagong	32.0	22.6 77 75
Khulna	31.4	20.6 68 43
Rajshahi	31.4	15.5 77 45
Khepupara	32.8	22.5 71 50
Cox's Bazar	32.5	22.8 87 47
Sylhet	29.0	18.0 89 39
Dinajpur	29.8	19.5 89 37
Rangamati	33.6	21.5 71 51

Sunset at Dhaka today (Tuesday) at 6.12 pm and sunrise tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5.57 am.

Reliance is not just a Name.
You can come and see
for yourself.



In just 2 1/2 years, Reliance has proved that it is not just another Insurance Company. Reliance is here to meet the needs of a changing world. Our strong back-up of human resources, in-depth market know-how and wealth of experience give us the strength to provide the security for all your general insurance needs.



EXPERIENCE * STRENGTH * SECURITY

RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED

BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE
DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH

Phone PABX: 240105-6
235080

Telex : 671186 RIL BJ