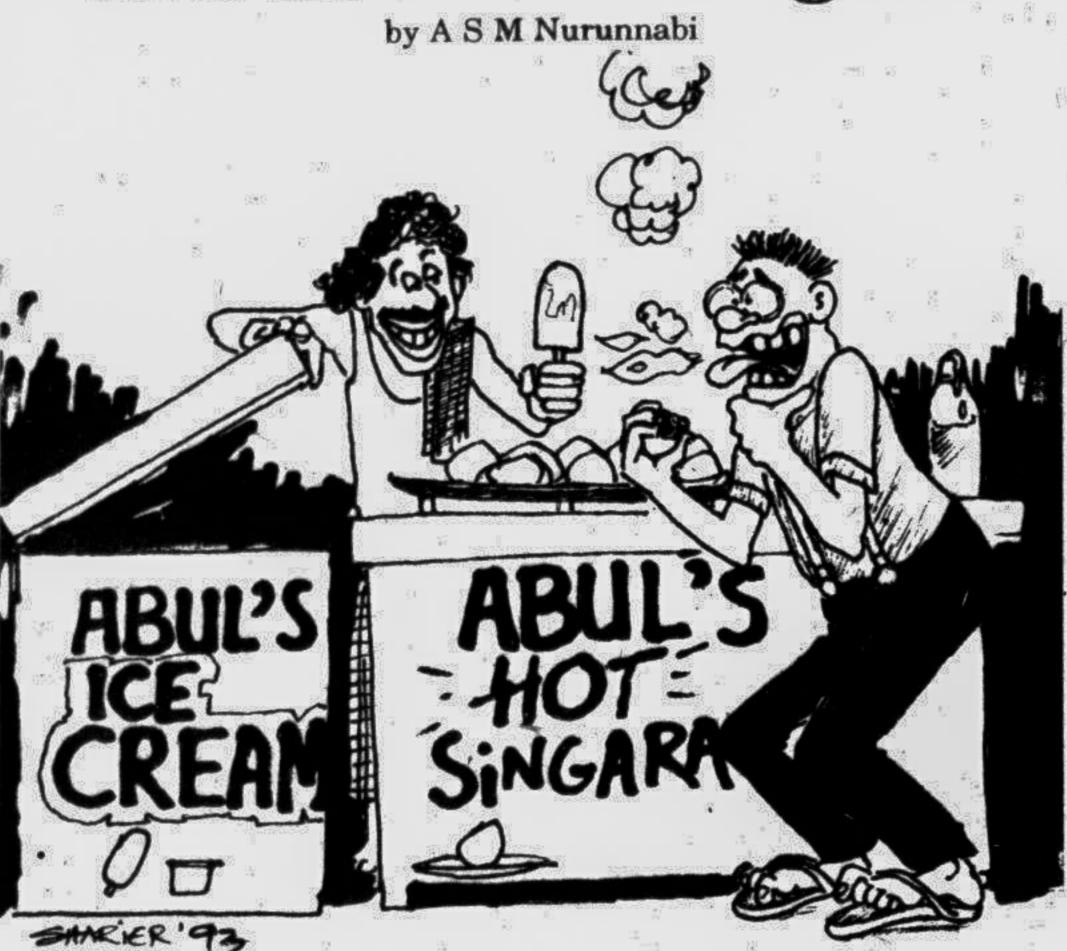
Dhaka Day by Day

The Lure of a Singara



'Singara is a popular Bangladeshi snack item. In culinary art, it does not enjoy much importance. Yet the very mention of its name is sure to tickle the palate of every Bangladeshi. In fact, it is intimately associated with Bangladeshi culture.

Its preparation is simple enough. You take a piece of dough, shape it like a triangle, stuff it with potato curry and then fry it in oil. Its simplistic preparation process gives no clue to the tremendous away it holds on Bangladeshi palate. If you entertain your guests with tea and freshly fried Singara, your popularity as a host will be secure.

Indeed, there are certain small things in life which sometimes make our existence full of contentment. Singara is one such thing. Contemplate a rainy day when heavy downpour makes you homebound. You get absorbed in a detective story, yet feel the want of something. If at this juncture, a cup of tea or coffee accompanies with a couple of Singaras is brought before you, you may not want anything more at that moment. Liking for this food item is perhaps ingrained in our psyche. If any comparison is needed, we may point out to an American's liking for a hamburger.

Those who champion the cause of Singara apprehend an onslaught on its popularity from a redoubtable competitor — the Samucha another delectable snack item. But since it is mostly urban-based, its sway is not as widespread. On the other hand, the presence of Singara is ubiquitous in every eating establishment and sweetmeat shop. Some sweetmeat shops in the city have made a name for

making superior kind of this item and so much is its demand that its stock is exhausted in no time every day.

The taste of Singara is heightened if taken piping hot. If it gets cold, much of its charm is lost. One of my friends living in America, who is an enthusiastic fan of this item, once requested his parents here in Bangladesh to send him a consignment of a couple of dozens of Singara through some friend returning after his visit here. His parents did as they were told. In this case, the stale Singaras might get back much of its original taste and flavour with a touch of micro-oven.

The territorial jurisdiction of its popularity roughly coincides with the eastern segment of this sub-continent. Beyond its limit, we find Samucha taking over. In West Bengal also, Singara enjoys as much popularity as here. Perhaps some cultural affinity plays a part in this behalf. Some of my friends who have experiences of that place opine that some sweetmeat shops there make the most delectable kind of this item.

We also find a trend here to make this thing more palatable with a variety of stuffing by using grated cheese, coconut, peanuts, etc. Given the peculiar palate of the Bangladeshis, which holds a Singara dear in every household, it seems certain that this innocent looking food item will continue to uphold its pristine glory for a long time to come. To a gourmet, it is not much of a thing to gloat over. It has not also a glorious history behind it like Biriyani. Yet somehow it seems rooted in Bangladeshi way of life with its unpretentious proletariat format

Bengali developed as commonman's language'

Bengali language since its emergence in late 10th century has developed as the language of the common people discarding Sanskrit and Prakrit used by aristocrats.

This was stated by Prof Anisuzzaman of Dhaka University yesterday in discussion arranged as a part of public lecture series by Independent University (college) of Bangladesh at BIRDEM here, reports BSS.

Speaking as the main speaker on 'Bengali language, the people and the relationship', Prof Anisuzzaman said having emerged as an Indo-Aryan language, Bengali gradually developed through its interaction with different languages of Asia and Europe.

Prof Anisuzzaman said, with the spread of Buddhism, the language got a developed literary form as the Buddhist philosophy and ideals were translated in Bengali for the convenience of the masses here. Sanskrit was earlier the court language in which Hindu religious books were written along with its use by the elite. The emergence of Islam in the region gave further boost to the language around 12th century particularly because of need to preach Islam in the vernacular language for the benefit of common masses.

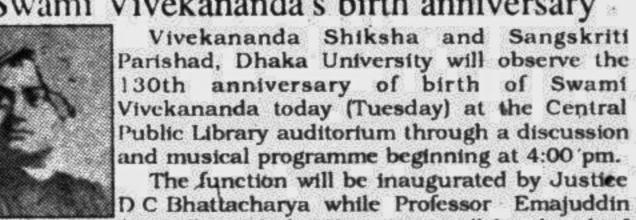
Composition of Bengali poctry by the local Muslim poets including Syed Sultan and translation from the Persian literature also enriched the language to a great extent, he

During the first phase of the British rule, the development of the language was not hampered as the East Indian Company decided to use Bengali as the official language for the region.

Bengali language faced a challenge in the 19th century when a section of both Hindu and Muslim elite began to think that the language does not have much scientific base for intellectual and also reli-. gious use.

What's on today •

Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary



Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor, Dhaka University will be the chief guest. Swami Aksharananda, Secretary, Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka will attend the function as the guest of honour while S M Ali, Editor, The Daily Star and Ahmedul Kabir, Editor, the Sangbad will attend it as special guests.

Renowned artistes including Nilufar Yasmin, Indramohan Rajbangshi, Rathindranath Ray, Subir Nandi and others will take part in the musical soiree.

Inaugural show of 'Aadab'

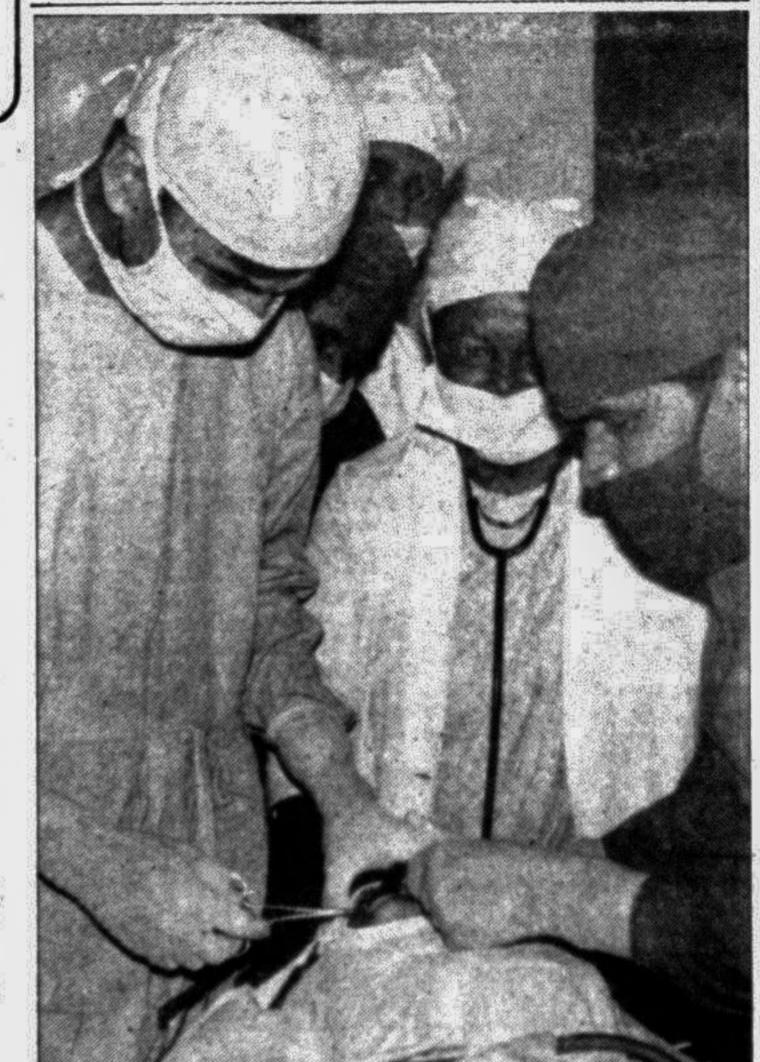
The inaugural show of 'Aadab', a short-film based on Samoresh Basu's story and directed by Zakiul Huq, will be screened today (Tuesday) at 4:30 pm at the German Cultural Centre auditorium.

Prof Muhammad Harunur Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy, will be the chief guest on the occasion while Mostafa Monwar will be the special guest. Bashir Al Helal, Muhammad Moniruzzaman, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Syed Salauddin Zaki and Asad Choudhury, will speak while Sayeed Ahmed will preside.

Press and Packaging Karmachari Fed

The representative convention of the Bangladesh Press and Packaging Karmachari Federation will be held today (Tuesday) at 4 pm at the Dhaka District Parishad auditorium. Journalist Iqbal Sobhan Choudhury will be the chief guest on the occasion while A S M Rumi, President of Jatiya Sramik League, will be the special guest. The main speaker on the occasion would be Bazlur Rahman Milon, Secretary General of

Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Press Sramik Federation.



Australian surgeon treating a patient at the Dhaka Dental College Hospital in the city yesterday. - Star photo

Hassan Issa meets Hasina

Charge d' Affaires of the United Arab Emirates Hassan Issa Mahmood called on opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at her Parliament office yesterday, reports UNB.

They exchanged views on bilateral and international issues of common concern.

Annual police parade Jan 20

The annual police parade will be held on January 20 at 9 in the morning at the Rajarbagh Police ground in observance of the Police Week-1993, an official handout said here, reports HSS.

Dear Ashnah

Have a funky 14th!

Love —

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Mom, Dad, Bro. Sagheer Bin Faiz

BCIC

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The Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Company Limited,

Two houses robbed By Staff Correspondent

Two houses at Mirpur and Uttara in the capital were robbed of cash, gold ornaments and other valuables Monday.

House of a journalist of the Bhorer Kagoj, a Bangla daily, was robbed of cash, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 65,000 at Mirpur Section-12 in the early hours Monday. The journalist, the paper's

economic correspondent Mohammad Sanaullah Lavlu, said that six armed men breaking open the grilled fence stormed into his house, tied up him and his younger brother Sayeef and looted Taka 15,000 in cash and gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Taka 55,000.

The armed men barged into the house at around 6:15 am yesterday and decamped after a 30-minute operation, said Sanaullah.

In another incident, a band of armed gangsters entered into the house of one Jahanara Begum at Sulhati, Uttara, at 11 am yesterday and looted Taka 11,000 in cash and other valuables worth about Taka 39,000.

When centacted, Uttara police said that they were not informed of the incident.

Australian surgeon treating patients

By DMCH Correspondent An Australian surgeon is currently treating patients with oral cancer at the Dhaka Dental College Hospital (DDCH)

Professor Michael Hase, an oral and maxillofactal surgeon, is also treating patients with clest lips and palate and other facial deformities. He is here under an Austro-Bangladesh oral and maxtllofactal surgeons cooperation accord.

The surgeon will carry out the treatment till January 17. He will operate on about 20 patients within the time. Interested patients can collect tickets for treatment from the outdoor department of DDCH.

Under the Austro-Bangla desh treaty, one Australian oral and maxillofactal surgeon has been coming to Bangladesh every month since 1991.

Oral cancer develops from chewing beetle leaves, line, beetle nut and chewing tobacco mainly, the surgeon said while talking to The Daily Star.

Head of the Oral Surgery Department of Dhaka Dental College Dr. Motiur Rahman Mollah said that the Dhaka Dental College suffers from an acute crisis of patient bed, with only 20 beds.

Two BJC officials retire

Government sent to retirement Nader Hossain Chowdhury and S M Masud, General Managers of Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC) on completion of 25 years of service, according to a government handout said here yesterday, reports BSS.



Tuesday

2.30 Opening announcement Al- Quran Programme summary Live telecast of President Gold Cup Football:

S Korea vs Czecho-2nd match: Bangladesh Greens vs Romania Nazrul songs News in Bangla

7.05 8.00 8.40 Drama Series: Uthan 10.00 News in English 10.30 Film show: E N G 11.30 Khabar/The News 11.45 Closing

G--51

Weather

Night temperature may fall

By Staff Correspondent

Light rain or drizzle may occur over the regions of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Mymensingh and Sylhet and weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6:00 am today (Tuesday). The Met office forecasts, night temperature is likely to fall by 2 to 3 degree Celsius over the country.

The minimum temperature of 9.4 degree Celsius was reported from Dinajpur and Iswardi yesterday (Monday) and the maximum of 27.5 degree was reported from Cox's Bazar. The sun sets today (Tuesday) at 5:30 pm and rises tomor-

row (Wednesday) at 6:44 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity of some of the major cities and towns of the country yes-

terday were: Humidity in Cities/Towns Temperature in degree Celsius percentage 9 am 12.2 24.5 Dhaka 17.4 26.5 Chittagong 89 85 92 94 Rajshahi 22.4 15.0 24.4 Khulna 14.5 25.4 Barisal 27.5 19.4 Cox's Bazar 100 ,23.2 12.5 Sylhet Dinajpur 20.1 9.4

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Sonia Gandhi: Rajiv (Album)

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