

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A Delectable Snack

by A S M Nurunnabi

A snack is defined as a slight or casual or hurried meal. There is scope for using a variety of foods as snacks mainly depending on the method of their preparation. A people's food habits, however, dictate certain choices as snacks. Some of the snacks get extremely popular because of their characteristic palatability.

In this context, in our urban areas, there are few items of snacks more popular than what is widely known as *chatpati*. Its recipe consists of gram, potato and a variety of spices. Its appeal lies with children and particularly young girls.

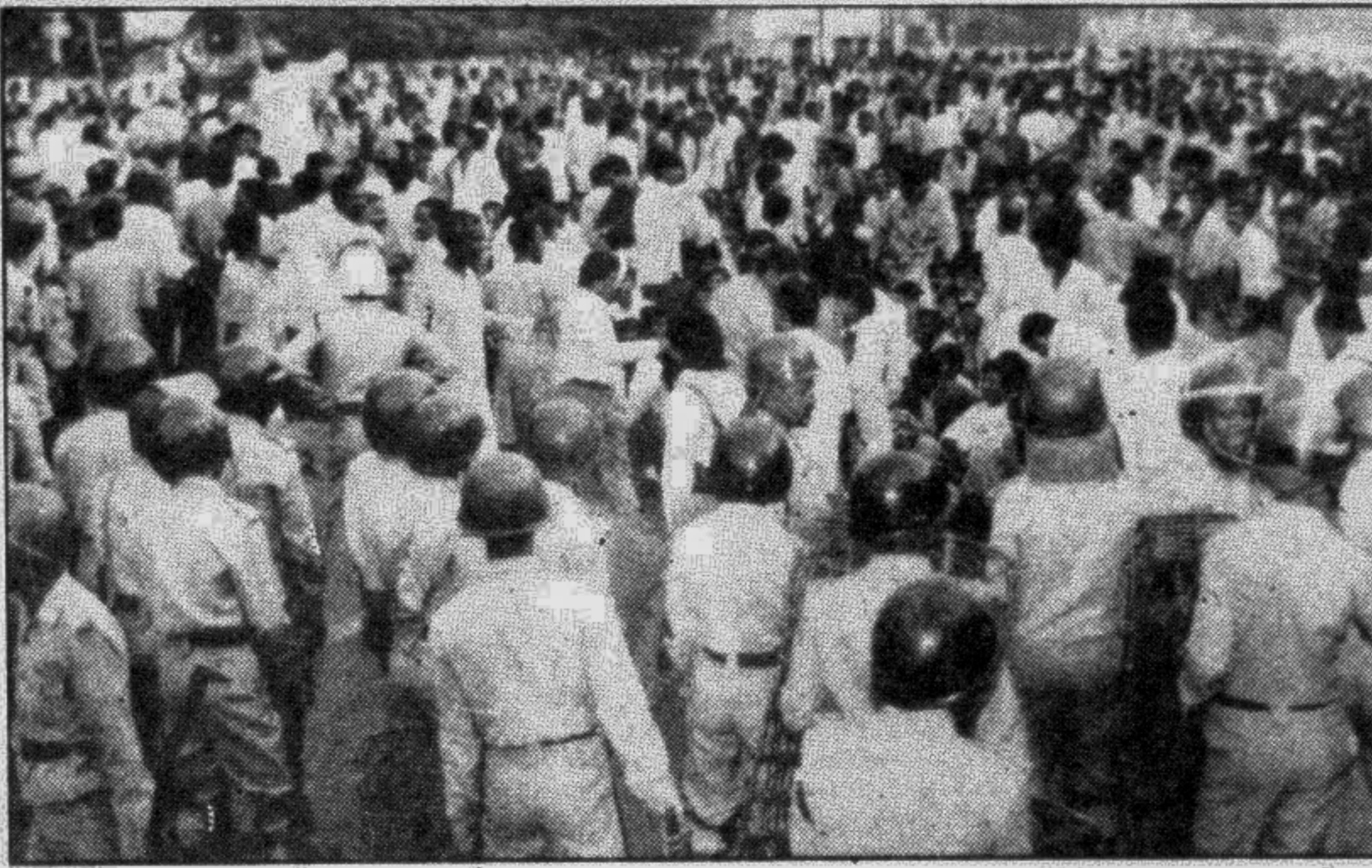
Four-wheeled vans carrying cooked *chatpati* draw crowds of customers at schools, colleges, parks or busy intersections of roads. Some of these vendors do such brisk business that they expand their establishments with the addition of folding chairs for their customers around their mobile vans. Such elaborate arrangements can be found in open spaces in front of their normal venues of business. Usually their business hours begin from midday and extend well past evening. There are specific hours when the business gets a boost. Where such business is run in front of educational institutions the peak hours for business are the tiffin period of those institutions. With the business over at such times and at such places, the vendors start for the city parks and the busy road intersections. There also the business is found to be steady. When evening sets in, these establishments are lit up with bright lights. Although the pressure of customers at this time becomes much less, there is always a trickle of customers.

There are some particular venues in the city where one can witness brisk business in this item conducted from a number of mobile vans. Take for instance the Sishu Park. With the approaching afternoon when crowds of visitors being to swell, the business gets started with a gusto. On the chairs arranged around each van, the customers leisurely eat from the plates in their hands.

Another crowded venue is located in front of the gates of the women's hostel of the university. The inmates of the hostel appear to be particularly fond of this delectable snack and at all times a steady stream of customers crowd around the mobile vans. The business goes on without any break even during holidays.

Even when the large part of the business is over during daytime, the *chatpattis* move their vans to busy road intersections and keep vigil for their customers. In some areas, it is a permanent fixture of the city scene in all seasons and in all weathers.

Since the recipe for the snack is simple, it is also cooked in many homes. But some youngsters seem to prefer the roadside preparation as they say its taste is different. But the indisputable fact is that be it prepared at home or outside, its appeal is more or less universal. Particularly during the festivals, when there is a surfeit of consumption of sweet dishes, this item is so much welcomed that no other food item can rival it. That is why guests invariably enquire about its availability when paying courtesy calls on their relatives during festivals.



A procession of workers of different jute, yarn and textile mills towards Jatiya Sangsad was intercepted by police at the Bangla Motor Crossing yesterday. — Star photo

Hannan tells Jatiya Sangsad Jute export fetches Tk 90 cr in 4 months

The country earned 2.29 crore US dollars equivalent to Tk 90.61 crore from jute export during the first four months of the current fiscal year (1993-94), Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to Satish Chandra Roy (AL), the minister said that 5,25,032 bales of raw jute was exported to 20 countries from July 1 to October 30.

Thailand which imported 1,10,981 bales of raw jute was the largest importer during the period, followed by Singapore with 1,02,517 bales, he said.

The State-owned jute mills have bought 15.07 lakh quintal of jute worth Tk 101.92 crore till November 11 of the current fiscal year, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah said this replying to Mohammad Shamsuddoha of CPB.

The minister said the nationalised jute mills had purchased 32.16 lakh quintal of jute worth Tk 221.16 crore in 1992-93 financial year.

The country exported 72.793 metric tons of jute goods of Tk 148.70 crore till October of the

current fiscal year. During the last fiscal, 2.92 lakh metric tons of jute goods worth Tk 558 crore, he said.

In reply to Haji Rashed Mosharrar of Awami League, the Jute Minister informed the House that no worker of Adamjee Jute Mills was sacked in 1992-93 and 1993-94 under the retrenchment programme.

6,41,000 nabbed for travelling without tickets

Some 6,41,000 rail passengers were caught for travelling without tickets in last six months since May.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed replying to a question from Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain (AL) said in parliament that the railway authorities realised over Tk 1.74 crore from the fare-dodgers.

Replying to another question from Hafeza Asma Khatun (Jamaat), the minister said the railways own some 1,489 passenger carriages and 287 diesel engines and there is no plan to increase their number at this moment.

Weavers' hunger strike December 1-2

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Sangjuka Tanti Samity in a statement Monday called upon the weavers of the country to make the token hunger strike to be held on December 1 and 2 in front of the Jatiya Press Club, a success.

The statement issued by its president Anwaruddin Khalifa and General Secretary Shamsul Alam Zulfikar also threatened to embark on a greater movement if the demands of the weavers are not fulfilled immediately.

The weaver leaders said the legitimate demands of the weavers had been ignored by the government.

They said the people had no confidence on the government which in the meantime had become liable to the World Bank and the IMF.

Keramat meets Pesh Imam of Harmain Sharif

Religious Affairs Minister Muhammed Keramat Ali now on a visit to Saudi Arabia Sunday met the Pesh Imam of Harmain Sharif Mohammad Abdullah Al-Sobail at Makkah Mokarrama, according to a message received here, reports UNB.

The minister conveyed to the Imam of Makkah the greetings and salam of the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.

The Imam of Kaba Sharif prayed to the Almighty Allah for the well-being of President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia as well as the people of Bangladesh.



Noted Indian singer Sudehna Roy Chowdhury giving a performance at DHL country office lawn, Dhaka organised jointly by DHL Worldwide Express & Homebound Packers & Shippers Ltd recently.

SAARC Secy Gen makes farewell call on Biswas

SAARC Secretary General Ibrahim Hussain Zaki asserted that the seven-nation regional forum had "stood the test of time and is going to stay and achieve further success", reports UNB.

His observation came when he made a farewell call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Talking to Zaki, President Biswas hoped that the forthcoming session of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Dhaka would further carry forward the SAARC process.

He appreciated the progress made by the SAARC in different fields of mutual cooperation.

Nepalese team meets Badruddoza

The six-member visiting Nepalese parliamentary delegation led by Radha Krishna Mainali MP, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) met the Deputy Leader of the House, Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

In Memoriam



In memory of our mother Begum Anwara Khatun, Ex-MLA of Bengal Assembly, MPA of East Pakistan Assembly, who died this day in 1988. May Allah rest her soul in peace. Henri, Munira

Happy Birthday to **SHAHNIMA** Dada, Abba, Amma, Chachas, Chachis, all cousins, Rupam, Rumon & Shushom

AIDS Day tomorrow

An elaborate programme has been drawn to observe the International AIDS Day on December 1 throughout the country, reports BSS.

The programme includes a colourful rally from National Museum to Jatiya Press Club at 8 am and formal inauguration at the auditorium of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Mohakhali at 11 am.



The Desh Bandhu C R Das Research Council recently announced the CR Das Gold Medal '93. Twelve persons will be awarded this year's gold medal for their contribution in their respective fields formally in January. The recipients are: (clockwise) M Wajid Ali Khan (Administration), M Mahbubuzzaman (Best organiser), Mohammad Sirajuddin (Cottage industries), Raushan Ali Md Hossain Hirje (Social works), M Azizul Alam (Social works), M Yunus FCA (Management), A H M Shawkat Ali Chowdhury (Banking) Nazrul Islam Khan (Labour organiser), Iqbal Hassan Mahmud (Industrialisation), Alhaj Rafiquddin Bhuyian (Industrialisation), Rajiya, Hussain (Education), A K M Motaminur Rashid (Education).

SOCIAL MARKETING COMPANY
MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Social Marketing Company (SMC), one of Bangladesh's largest marketing organisations with international connections, is seeking to appoint a new Managing Director who will be the chief executive officer of the company. The position carries with it ex-officio membership of the SMC Board.

SMC is a leading participant in the national contraceptives and health care markets. Although primarily aid-funded, it is currently expanding and undergoing a transition to a more commercial form of enterprise. The new Managing Director will be expected to implement successfully a strategic plan, currently being developed, which aims to effect this transition within three years.

Only candidates of exceptional quality will be considered; they should possess the following qualifications:

- Strong private sector credentials in general management, including at least ten years' experience at a senior management level;
- A marketing background, preferably in the pharmaceuticals, health care, consumer products or related industries;
- A track record of proven leadership in forming and motivating a cohesive senior management team, strong conceptual and analytical skills, excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills.

Compensation package will be fully commensurate with the importance of this position. Interested applicants should submit their detailed curriculum vitae by 31st December 1993 addressed to:

Chairman
Social Marketing Company
GPO Box 690, Dhaka-1000

Weather

No change in temperature

By Staff Correspondent

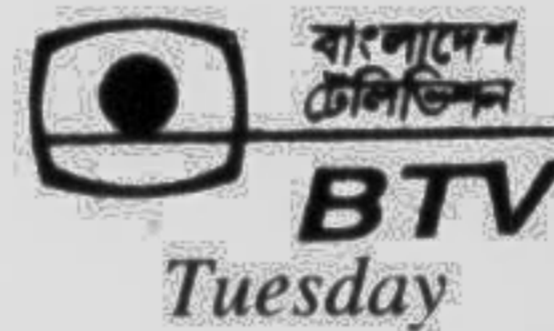
The weather forecast for the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Tuesday) says, dry weather with partly cloudy sky is likely to prevail over the country while the night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 31.1 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest 13.0 was recorded in Faridpur.

The sun sets today Tuesday at 5:11 pm and rises tomorrow (Wednesday) at 6:24 am.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/towns	Temperatures in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	max	min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	28.4	17.5	63	87
Chittagong	29.0	16.0	74	47
Rajshahi	28.6	16.0	80	74
Khulna	29.5	16.2	78	74
Barisal	29.4	15.0	74	75
Cox's Bazar	30.2	16.4	65	57
Sylhet	30.0	15.0	65	67
Dinajpur	28.8	13.9	76	80



Tuesday

5:00	Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary
5:15	News in Bangla
5:20	Mass education programme: Esho Para Shekhi
6:05	Sports programme: World Cup Cricket '92 India vs Pakistan
6:50	Open University
7:25	Sangeeta
8:00	News in Bangla
8:40	Fortnightly drama serial: Deyal (5th episode)
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: ENG
11:30	Khobar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary

At Reliance Your Security Comes First



With its strong back-up of human resources, in-depth know-how and wealth of experience, Reliance is fully geared to meet all your general insurance requirements in a fast changing world



EXPERIENCE * STRENGTH * SECURITY
RELIANCE INSURANCE LIMITED
BSB BUILDING, 8 RAJUK AVENUE
DHAKA-1000, BANGLADESH
Phone: PABX - 240105-6, 235080
Telex: 671186 RIL BJ