

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Snack-bars Add New Dimension to Our Food habit

by A S M Nurunnabi



As it is, urban food habits differ in many respects from rural ones which are essentially simple. As city denizens, by and large, by reasons of earning a living, are forced to set a fast pace in life, their food habits undergo extraordinary changes. These changes mainly focus on the attainment of rapidity in the preparation of food and their quick consumption.

This essential need is fast growing in tempo as the process of urbanisation picks up. At the same time, city limits are rapidly expanding which makes commuting to the city centre a time-consuming affair. The commuters naturally leave their homes early with a view to be present at their places of duty on time. In this rush, they can ill-afford to give much time to the preparation of food at home. In such a situation, they either carry their own food with them or depend for their sustenance on the fast food shops which may be at hand.

It is only in the last four or five years that we see a proliferation of these fast food shops all over the city. The commercial and office neighbourhoods are where these shops are mostly concentrated. And here during lunch time, there is a heavy rush of customers. From this trend, it appears that a substantial change has taken place in the food habits of a large section of urban populace. No longer do they seem to depend on rice and curry to satisfy their hunger at mid-day.

At the snack-bars, the urban customers have become acquainted with a large variety of food items which were previously foreign to our gastronomic culture. Among the popular items are beef burgers, hot dogs pizzas, salamis, sausages, pies, sandwiches, pastries, etc. Different types of cakes and pastries are also available. Some of these shops offer high quality products and their prices are also high, if not forbidding. Since many of the customers belong to high-income brackets, the high prices of the products do not

stand in the way of steady business of many of the shops having strategic locations and a good name for quality products.

It has been observed that some popular brands of soft drinks flow freely at these snack bars along with the food consumed here. Thus a soft drink culture which is already in the ascendant in the urban areas is closely associated with the snack-bars. It has also been observed that the young age group, by and large, constitutes the larger segment of patrons of the snack bars. At many of these snack-bars, a welcome facility is available; you can get your food piping hot, thanks to the micro-oven. This constitutes a particular attraction for many customers who want to get a full meal at any time.

We all know how popular Chinese food is nowadays in the city. The burgeoning growth of the Chinese restaurants in the city is indicative of that popularity. Popularity of the same degree is in evidence in the case of snack bars. Apart from the exotic and indigenous fare they serve, the snack-bars are also worthy of notice from another angle: most of them attract attention for their simple decor and subdued lighting arrangement. This combined with their clean service contributes substantially to the enhancement of their popularity.

The growth of snack-bars is still in its infancy in our cities. Judging by the trends in other cities of the world, it is easy to speculate that the phenomenon of snack-bars will gradually pick up momentum and spread far and wide. Even in Russia, where they were previously regarded as a capitalist manifestation before the collapse of communism, the situation has reportedly changed. The famous chain of Macdonald snack-bars is now reportedly doing brisk business in Moscow, as in some other world capitals. So we can foresee bright prospects for a substantial expansion of the network of such eateries in our urban areas.

## FFs team calls on Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday said the freedom fighters, who risked their lives for the liberation of the motherland, are the greatest sons of the soil, reports UNB.

The President was talking to a 16-member delegation of the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Sangstha, a non-political organisation, which called on him at Bangabhaban.

The delegation was led by Chairman of the Sangstha Enamul Haq.

"The nation will always remember their contributions with gratitude," Biswas said and paid rich tributes to those who courted martyrdom in the Liberation War of 1971.

Earlier, the delegation explained to the President the objectives of the organisation. They appealed to him for allotment of a land in the city to accommodate their office and other support for rehabilitation of the freedom fighters who are still suffering economically and require proper rehabilitation.

President Biswas assured all possible help and support to the organisation for rehabilitation of freedom fighters.

Among others, MA Shukkur Mia, RA Zaman Khan, Khabdakar, Motiur Rahman Khan, Tofazzal Hossain, Monir Hossain, Abdur Rashid Khan, Akteruddin Zakir, Salah Uddin Shahjahan, Syed Nuruzzaman, Abdul Halim and Delwar Hossain were present in the delegation.

## RMC auditorium to be completed by April

RAJSHAHI, Jan 5: Construction work of an one thousand seat capacity auditorium of Rajshahi Medical College (RMC) at a cost of Tk three crore 70 lakh is progressing fast, reports BSS.

Public Works Department is constructing the auditorium having a 70 feet by 35 feet stage and lighting and sound proof facilities.

About 80 per cent work of the auditorium has already been completed and the rest of the work is expected to be completed by April next.

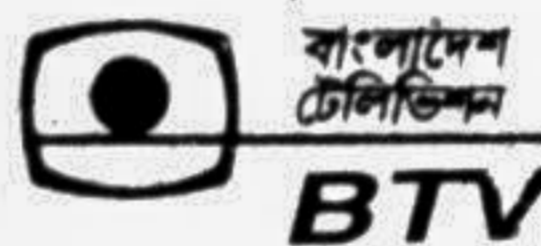
Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the auditorium on November 10 last year.

## Fowler meets Harun

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Peter J Fowler called on Minister of State for Relief Harun-al-Roshid at the latter's office at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, reports BSS.

They discussed matters relating to bilateral and mutual interest.

The state minister apprised the high commissioner of disaster preparedness measures, socio-economic development programmes like food for work, test relief and other activities of the ministry. Rashid also informed about the present situation of Rohingya refugee repatriation.



Thursday

4:30	Opening announcement
	Al-Quran
	Programme summary
4:35	News in Bangla
4:45	Esho Gan Shikhi
5:25	National TV School Debate Competition
6:20	Mass Education Programme:
	Esho Para Shikhi
6:45	Programme on religious affairs: Jiboner Alo
7:25	Nazrul songs
8:00	News in Bangla
8:30	Drama of the week: Man Manusher Galpa
10:00	News in English
10:30	Film show: Woman of Substance
11:30	Khabar/The News
11:40	Tomorrow's programme summary
11:45	Closing

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Dry weather with a fair sky is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Thursday).

Met Office forecasts, no appreciable change in night temperature is likely over Bangladesh.

The country's highest temperature of 30.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the lowest of 9.6 degrees Celsius was recorded in Srimongol yesterday.

The sun sets today at 5:26pm and rises tomorrow (Friday) at 6:43am.

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

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degrees Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	26.4	12.2	72	68
Chittagong	29.0	14.6	80	70
Rajshahi	26.2	12.2	85	78
Khulna	27.6	12.0	80	78
Barisal	27.4	12.2	78	67
Sylhet	26.5	12.5	88	70
Dinajpur	26.0	13.2	93	72
Cox's Bazar	28.7	18.0	72	70



A 16-member delegation of Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Rehabilitation Sangstha led by its Chairman Enamul Haq called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday.

## Integrated agriculture policy soon

Agriculture and Irrigation Minister M Majid-ul Haq yesterday said that the government would soon complete formulation of an integrated agriculture policy, reports BSS.

A better coordination and preparation of a specific system of work among all the agriculture related sectors is the main theme of this agriculture policy, he added.

He was talking to the newly elected leaders of Agriculturists Institution at his office in Dhaka.

President of the Agriculturist Institution Dr Md Ayubur Rahman, vice-president Tofsiuruddin Siddique, secretary general Javed Iqbal and other leaders of the institution were present.

Majid-ul Haq said that possible and necessary steps will be taken jointly with Agriculturists Institution to solve the existing problems with a view to promoting agriculture related activities.

He instructed the agriculturists to work sincerely in their respective fields to implement the government's uplift programmes.

The minister congratulated the newly elected leaders of the institution and assured them of all possible government cooperation.

Secretary general Javed Iqbal thanked the minister on behalf of the agriculturists and expressed their determination to work sincerely in the nation building activities.

## Eviction slated

By Staff Correspondent

Authorities yesterday demolished unauthorised constructions at Pora slum of Kalyanpur in the city.

The eviction was carried out in presence of magistrates by the local police and the RAJUK authorities from early yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, Manabik Shahajya Sangstha slated the eviction terming it illegal and a violation of National Housing Policy adopted only in last month.

On December 13, the government decided to avoid forcible relocation or displacement of slum dwellers.

No prior notice was served to the 2000 families living in the Pora slum, where they have been living for the last eight years a press release of the NGO said.

MSS is presently running a government approved Women's Credit Programme funded by the Ford Foundation to generate incomes of the women. According to the press release, the MSS programme affected by the eviction was designed after the Grameen Bank model with an expected loan recovery rate of 99%.

Expressing concern over the unplanned and illegal eviction the MSS said that this has bulldozed a flourishing non-government women's upliftment initiative.

## Four get Apex Foundation Award '93

By Staff Correspondent

The Apex Bangladesh Foundation has nominated MA Zaher, Dr MA Razzak and Mostafa Jaman Abbasi and Ferdousi Majumder for the Apex Bangladesh Foundation Award '93 for their contributions in various fields.

The award giving ceremony which will be followed by the annual general meeting of the foundation at the New China Orchard at 154, Green Road scheduled for today.

## Review meeting of Railway

CHITTAGONG, Jan 5: Communications Minister Oli Ahmad today directed the railwaymen to go for 'all-out endeavours to bring about brighter days for Bangladesh Railway, reports BSS.

He said, "The task is hard but we must put in our every efforts to turn the railway into a profitable, service-oriented organisation within the shortest possible time."

The minister was addressing the senior officials and departmental heads of the East Zone of Bangladesh Railway at a review meeting here.

Secretary and Director General of Bangladesh Railway, Dr Mosiur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

The minister said railway was facing a tremendous competition from other means of public transportation.

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES

The containerised cargo ex. M. V. OCEAN SINCERITY V-61 AB from Karachi, ex. M.V. HOECHST EXPRESS V-12350 from Hongkong, ex. M.V. HAKATA V-9336F from Keelung, ex. M.V. SUCCESS HOPE V-34016 from Nagoya & containers from Singapore have been related to M.V. IMKE WEHR V-013 Imp. Rot. No. 1081/93 is due to arrive Chittagong on or about 6-1-1994 from Singapore.

Consignees are requested to take delivery of their cargo from FCL containers within 5 days free time from the date of landing and if cargo not cleared within 45 days will be guided by Customs Act.

## BIRDS BANGLADESH AGENCIES LTD.

103, AGRABAD COMMERCIAL AREA, CHITTAGONG.  
AS AGENTS: MITSUBISHI O.S.K. LINES LTD. TOKYO.  
PHONES: 500686, 503317, 500687/88

## Apex Tannery Limited

### Dividend Warrant - 1992-93

The share holders of the company are requested to collect dividend warrants declared for the year 1992-93 from its registered office, 65-66 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka from 08.01.94.

Dividend warrants will be distributed in all, working days from 9-30 A.M. to 4-30 P.M. (Thursday 12-30 P.M.).

Certificates or other proper documents will have to be produced at the time of collection of dividend warrants.

Syed Mahbubur Rashid  
Company Secretary

## MSS JOB OPPORTUNITY

Working for the People

- Program Officer:** (Study and Research Group) Masters in Political Science/R/Ph.D. Ad. Conversant with national and international politics. Exposed to working with democratic political process/institutions. Experience desirable. Salary negotiable.
- Researcher:** (Legal Aid): Law graduate, 3 years experience in conducting research on legal or related field. Salary: Tk. 3,500/- + benefits.
- Lady Doctor:** (part time) MBBS. Trained in Gyne-obs. 2 years experience. Salary: Tk. 3,000/-
- Instructor:** (Legal Aid): Law graduate, 3 years experience in conducting training program on legal or related fields. Salary: Tk. 3,500/- + benefits.
- Community Dev. Org. (CDO):** H.S.C passed. Experience with Credit Programmes desired.
- Typist cum Clerk:** H.S.C passed typing speed 60 W.P.M. Shorthand knowledge preferred.
- Peon:** Class VIII passed, must know cycling. Salary negotiable. Must be willing to work with slum dwellers. For Sl. No. 1-6 female candidates are encouraged. Age-28-35 yrs. Fluent in Bangla & English. Please enclose stamped self address envelope. Mark the name of post applied for on the envelope. Apply with full bio-data and recent photograph before January 15, 1994. Canvassing prohibited.

Manabik Shahajya Sangstha  
107, Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhaka-1205

## CHINESE FILM FESTIVAL '94



The picture shows (from L to R) Director General of the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Mobarak Hossain Khan, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang. Barrister Huda inaugurated a week-long Chinese film festival '94 as chief guest yesterday at the academy's auditorium. The festival is organised jointly by Shilpakala Academy and Chinese Embassy here. — Star photo

## System loss in power sector still at 36 pc

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondkar Mosharrar Hossain yesterday said that outdated technology and lack of proper planning alone cannot always be blamed for the underdevelopment of the country, reports BSS.

Dr Mosharrar said despite all technical reasons, system loss in power sector should in no way be more than 16 per cent. But still the percentage remained at 36 for which the nation had to pay an additional amount of Tk 400 crore every year, he said and urged the diploma engineers to put in their best efforts to overcome the situation.

System loss, corruption and disorder in all sectors are also equally responsible for the country's underdevelopment, he said.

The energy minister was addressing the eight national conference and silver jubilee of Bangladesh Water and Power Diploma Engineers Association, an affiliated body of Bangladesh Diploma Engineers' Association, at WAPDA auditorium in Dhaka.

State Minister for Irrigation Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan and president of Diploma Engineers' Association Shafuddin Sarkar attended the

function as chief guests. President of water and Power Diploma Engineers Association Tasadduk Hossain was in the chair.

The energy minister, however, lauded the role of diploma engineers, particularly those in power and water management sectors and appreciated their concern for the development of the country through application of appropriate technologies.

He said as the diploma engineers had been working at the grassroots level they were familiar with the problems and needs of rural Bangladesh. He said emphasis on their participation in formulating development projects with local initiatives and resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan regretted that during the past autocratic regime crores of taka were spent for various projects without considering their feasibility and consequences. Some of them were totally unnecessary and useless, he said.

Shafuddin Sarkar in his speech, urged the authorities to analyse the feasibility of different projects before their implementation.

## Chinese film festival opens

A six-day Chinese film festival began in the capital yesterday, reports UNB.

The film festival will help our film-makers to share experience with their Chinese counterparts," Huda said while inaugurating the film festival at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the evening.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang was the special guest at the inaugural function of the festival jointly organised by the Shilpakala Academy and the Chinese Embassy.

Referring to the government policy on the film industry, the information minister said the present government recognises that film is a good medium for promotion of socio-cultural advancement.

He maintained that the government policy was aimed at encouraging production of quality films in the country.

Giving a brief account of the history of 88 years of the Chinese film industry Huda said, "The Chinese film industry is presently at the height of its achievement with a bright future ahead."

China has made over 800 feature films since 1976, he added. Speaking on the occasion, the Chinese ambassador hoped that the festival would help the people here to have an idea of way of life of the Chinese people.