

Metropolitan

**Dhaka Day by Day**

Food Stalls in Boi Mela

**Not Exactly a Gastronomical Delight**

by Iftekhar A. Chowdhury



Gedu Dudur Khabar Ghar (Gedu-Dudu's food stall). Ah ki moja (ah! how delicious). Khabo na keno, khabo (why shouldn't I eat? I must) are few of the bizarre names which mark the existence of the food stalls outside the Bangla Academy premises this year. Far fetching and remote as it may seem from everything that Ekushey symbolises, one food stall has been named The Restaurant of Tipu Sultan, which must have taken its root from the popular TV serial, Sword of Tipu Sultan and every food item that they sell there is named after each of the characters of that TV drama, such as Haider Ali Chatpati, Khanderao Noodles, Purnaiya Piyaju, Sultani Somocho, Rokaiya Papor etc. One may rightly wonder what Tipu Sultan had to do with Ekushey?

Traditionally, February is the month in which the Bengalee people endeavour to see themselves in a retrospective light. As Ekushey stands for as much as everything that the people of this land represent, it is only natural that their taste for food will also be an integral part of the celebration that marks this auspicious occasion.

As the Bangla Academy premises is not so small a territory, one or two rounds in and across the Boi Mela would definitely leave a visitor with a strong appetite for any kind of food that he or she could get hold of. But surely as one who had the opportunity of eating out in the Mela, would agree that it isn't actually a gastronomical delight.

"Bizarre names, sub-standard food and exorbitant price mark the existence of these food stalls," comments one annoyed visitor.

Bangla Academy's decision to shift the food stalls outside its premises from last year was indeed a welcome move. This year, at least fifty food stalls operate just outside the Academy's boundary wall. Mostly college and university students operate these stalls. They would readily insist a passerby to have something in their stalls and by their continued insistence

even a reluctant customer would end up having something there and paying at least twice or thrice than elsewhere for any food item.

"The atmosphere of the Academy premises is laden with dust. So, I would ask anyone who will eat in one of these stalls, to go into a stall, the front of which has just been sprinkled with water. Otherwise, one may run the risk of having something which is an unhealthy concoction of food and dust," cautioned another visitor. At a time when diseases like diarrhoea and cholera is common in our country, one should give a serious thought to such points before eating in these stalls. For the organisers part, they should do something to retain the healthy atmosphere of the place, which is an obvious prerogative for healthy food.

Coming back to the names of the food stalls, most people will agree that some of the names are nice, some funny and some in very bad taste and often verges on being grotesque. *Khabum* (a local dialect meaning, wanting to eat), *Khali Khida Lage* (always feeling hungry), *Khaiya Dekhina Ki Moja* (try and find out how delicious it is), *Fatafati Khabar* (smashing food) are probably few of the funny and amusing (!) names. But names like *Khadak* (glutton) which is named after a story by the popular writer Humayoun Ahmed and where he is supposed to visit any one of these evenings (claimed by its organisers), *Pete Shurut Pokete Furut* (hunger in the stomach will result in an empty purse), *Cholo Jal, Chame Khai* (let's go and eat on chance) are few of the names that are "definitely in bad taste and also in total contradiction to the spirit that epitomises the month of February. The Academy officials should think seriously about the naming of the stalls from next year. As these stalls are an integral part of the book fair and the festivity of Ekushey, they should be put under scrutiny before coming into being", suggested Nasim Ahmed, a research scholar who came to visit the Mela.

**BOU to open 10 regional centres**

The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) will open 10 regional centres in different districts of the country to expedite implementation of the education programmes undertaken by the government, reports UNB.

Some 80 sub-centres under

**Show on Bengali language opens**

A fortnight long exhibition on Bengali Language and Use of Articles: Past and Future to mark the great language movement began at the National Museum in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar formally inaugurated the exhibition with a call for making extensive research on the language for the benefit of the posterity.

Chaired by Mohammad Nasiruddin, Editor of the Sawgat, the function was also addressed by Wakil Ahmed, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam and Sheikh Akram Ali, Director General of the National Museum.

Referring to the rich tradition of Bengali as a language, the minister said the language had given us a unique identity by which we are known everywhere.

He said the language had gone under many changes over the ages and opened up a new horizon in the history of language. He recalled the sacrifices made by Rafiq, Salam and Barkat for establishing Bengali as the official language and said the nation would remember them with gratitude.

Sircar lauded the role of the National Museum for holding such exhibition and said the future generation would learn about our rich cultural heritage.

The minister later inaugurated the exhibition. He showed keen interest in the exhibits.

**Varsity teachers strike Feb 16**

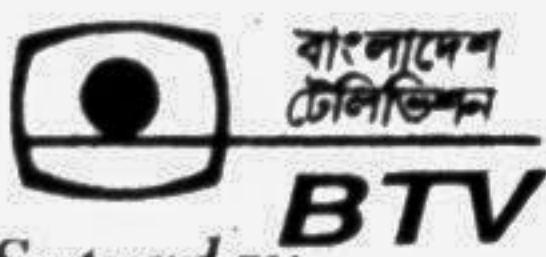
By DU Correspondent

The university teachers of the country will observe strike on February 16 in protest of the reported government initiative to amend the University Ordinance 1973.

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) took the decision in a meeting Tuesday.

The FBUTA in the meeting demanded appointment of the Vice-Chancellors of the Rajshahi and Jahangirnagar universities in compliance with the 1973 ordinance immediately.

The FBUTA also demanded the arrest and trial of the 'terrorists' involved in Monday's armed vandalism at the Jahangirnagar University.



**Saturday**  
 4:30 Opening announcement, Al-Quran Programme summary  
 4:40 News in Bangla  
 4:45 Cartoon: Stories to remember  
 5:25 Moner Katha  
 6:00 Tarunnya  
 6:30 Angikar  
 7:00 Banshari  
 8:00 News in Bangla  
 8:30 Maati O Manush  
 9:00 Avimat  
 10:00 News in English  
 10:30 Drama series: Dallas  
 11:30 Khabar/The News  
 11:40 Tomorrow's Programme  
 11:45 Closing

the regional centres will be set up with the financial help of Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB will provide Tk over 3 crore to implement the projects.

The 10 regional centres will be set up at Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Comilla, Sylhet, Jessore, Bogra and Rangpur.

The centres will be provided with library, radio, television, including video cassettes, computer and other equipment.

The centres will provide education on SSC level Bengali and English language, B Ed, computer programming, nursing and some other subjects.

The sites for setting up the centres will be selected considering the remoteness of the areas.

Meanwhile, a 5-member team headed by Prof Shamsher Ali has visited different areas of Barisal district to select the sites for the centres.



Catherine Bertini, executive director of WPF addressing a press conference at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. Salahuddin Ahmed, deputy executive director, Gaston Eyben, country director and MJ Powell director, Public Affairs are also seen. — Star photo

**World Bank official visits North-South University**

Dr. Christopher R. Willoughby, the chief of World Bank Mission in Bangladesh visited NSU Wednesday, says a press release.

In an informal discussion, iftekharul Alam, Chairman of the Board of Governors and Muslehuddin Ahmad, President of NSU, briefed Dr. Willoughby on the various academic programmes of North

South University which started functioning from January, 1993. Alam specifically referred to the novel initiatives taken by the private entrepreneurs in setting up NSU.

**Weather**

**Dry weather likely**

By Staff Correspondent

Dry weather with fair sky is likely to prevail over the country during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

Night temperature may fall by one degree Celsius over the country, the Met office forecasts.

The country's maximum temperature yesterday of 27.8 degree Celsius was recorded in Teknaf and the minimum 9.0 degree in Rajshahi.

The sun sets today at 5.52 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.33 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	25.2	12.6	75	52
Chittagong	26.0	14.8	70	52
Rajshahi	24.6	9.0	97	67
Khulna	26.1	12.4	72	63
Barisal	26.2	16.2	87	66
Cox's Bazar	27.5	16.5	57	54
Sylhet	25.0	12.5	91	52
Dinajpur	23.0	12.1	90	58

**Spring Festival observed**

A river cruise was arranged yesterday by the Bangladesh-China People's Friendship Association in celebration of the traditional Chinese Spring Festival, marking New Year's Day, reports UNB.

Chinese nationals in Bangladesh, including Ambassador Zhang Xu Jiang, were among others who enjoyed the pleasure trip on board MV Kajal, a BIWTC cruise vessel, that sailed from Badamtoli terminal on the Buriganga in the morning.

A cultural function was arranged on the occasion in which both Bengali and Chinese songs and dances and a magic show were presented. Speaking at the function, Ambassador Zhang conveyed new year's greetings to all and hoped the China-Bangladesh friendship would strengthen further through close cooperation between the two countries.

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- সি. এম. জি. টোপ ১৪, ট্রেডিং মার্কেট, ঢাকা, ফোন ২০৫৫০৭
- মেসার্স খান ইলেকট্রনিক্স ৪২, ট্রেডিং মার্কেট, ঢাকা, ফোন ২০৭১২৩
- ইউ এশিয়া ইলেকট্রনিক্স কোং ৪৯, সিটি সুপার মার্কেট, বায়তুল মোকাররম, ঢাকা, ফোন ২৫১২১৯
- শাহ আলী এণ্ড কোম্পানী লিঃ ১২২, বায়তুল মোকাররম, ঢাকা, ফোন ২৫৫৫৪৫
- রাফহান ইলেকট্রনিক্স ৩২, ট্রেডিং মার্কেট, ঢাকা, ফোন ২৪৪২০০
- আবরনী ইলেকট্রনিক্স ১৩, ট্রেডিং মার্কেট, ঢাকা, ফোন ২০৫৫৬৪
- প্রিন্স রেডিও হাউস ৫/৯, ডিআইটি মার্কেট, নারায়ণপুর, ফোন ২৭০৩০১
- অভিলাষ ৪১৪, বিপনী বিতান, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন ২২১৯৮৯, ২২৬১৩৮
- এস এইচ ইলেকট্রনিক্স ১১, বাইস্কোপ ক্লাব শপিং কমপ্লেক্স, নন্দন কানন, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন ২২০৭৯৪, ২২৬৬৩৪
- সুব্রতন ৪০০, বিপনী বিতান, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন ২২৪৯৮৪
- তরঙ্গ ইলেকট্রনিক্স ৪১৩, বিপনী বিতান, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন ২২২৭০৭
- ফরিদ এন্টারপ্রাইজ ৪২৬/বি, বিপনী বিতান, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন ২২৩৬১২, ২২১৭০৮

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