

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**You Can keep Your Sweetmeats, Just pass Me the Peanuts**

by Rashida Ahmad

Let me tell you, it's hard to survive in Dhaka if you don't happen to have a sweet tooth. It appears to be a necessary condition of life here to be a sugar junkie if you want to be at all socially acceptable, to get on with your family, make a real bargain with a shopkeeper, drink the odd cup of tea at work... and the list goes on.

While numerous aspects of life — business, social, private, recreational — in many other parts of the world, revolve around alcohol and the consumption thereof, needless to say, for obvious reasons this is not the case here (except for Hindus, perhaps, the expat community, of course, a certain class of men who go to all-male drinking dens, that I have heard about but never seen, and a minority of rich deshis — for some reason going against tradition/religion appears to be directly proportional to earning power).

Here, *cha* and *mishti* is the order of the day, at work, rest or play, the epicurean centre of family, social and business gatherings. Whereas foods that seem to complement alcohol are usually savoury, salty and dry, with tea, inevitably, without fail, that feeling of dread arises as the *mishti* appears on the table.

That hint of horror, the pricking of the hairs on the back of your neck the knoiting of the stomach with nervous tension? Why? Because you know you cannot refuse. Not that you won't be able to refuse, because you're sorely tempted by all that *laddu*, *rosomalit*, *sandehs*, *gelapi* etc. but you will not be permitted to refuse. You simply will not be allowed.

Socially you cannot even attempt to refuse for fear of offending and being an outcast, never to mix with the desirable set again, rejected from society, forever on the outside of that circle of ex-acquaintances, hearing the whispered comments behind your back. That girl, I'm never asking her to dinner again, she refused to eat my *halua*, I made it myself!

With family, at least you can 'just say no', but the amount of effort it requires takes its toll

with a strained atmosphere prevailing for some hours after the rejection of the *mishti*, and by association the rejection of your confused relative.

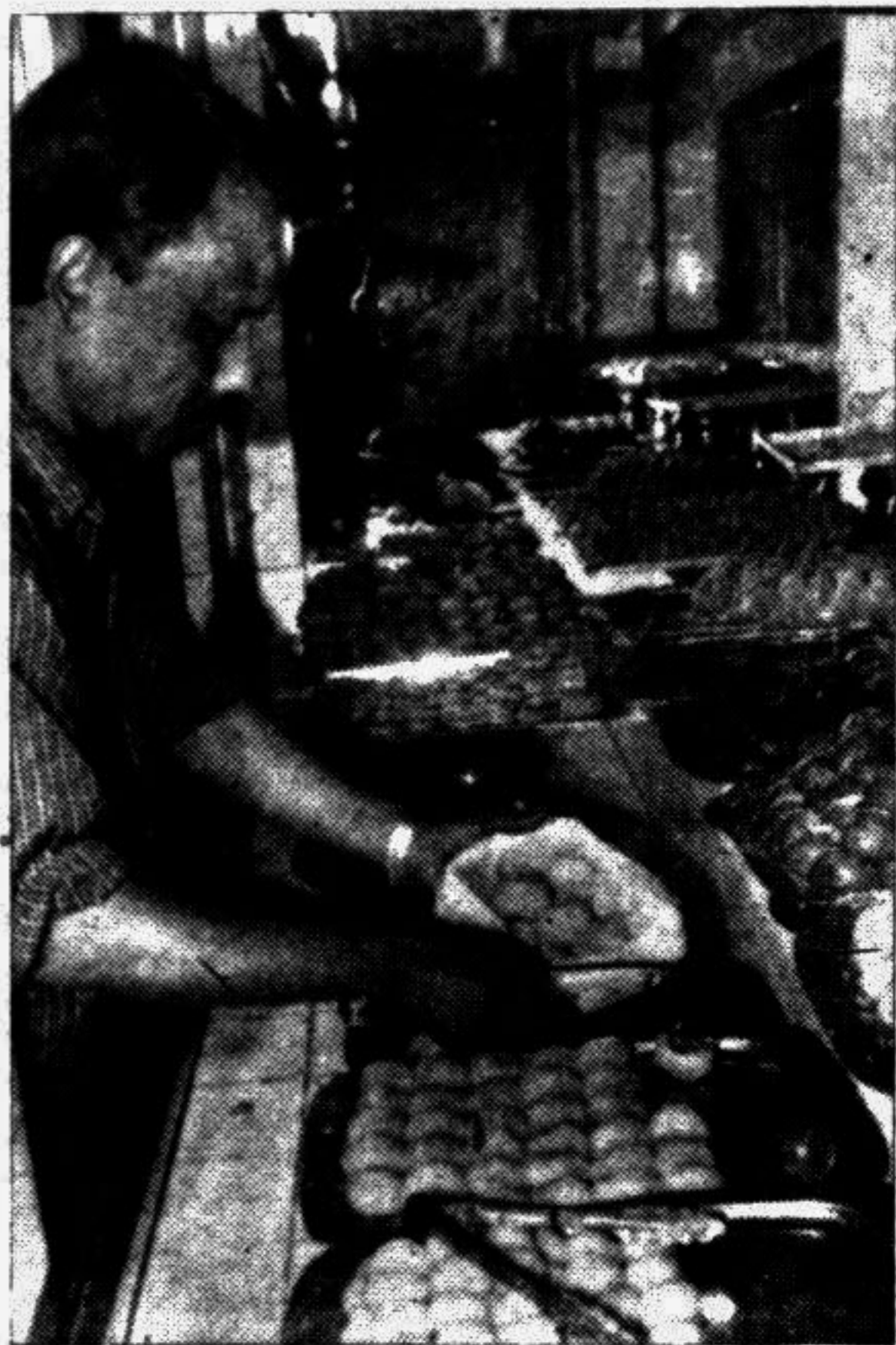
The last time I informed someone of my incredible character defect, their prompt reply was, 'Well, if you don't like sweet things, why don't you just have a bowl of *shemol*? That's not *mishti*.' It reminded me of when I was vegetarian, and the absolute lack of comprehension I was faced with when I explained to people who invited me for dinner, 'well, never mind, they would say, if you can't eat the beef dishes, just have some chicken then. That's not really meat is it?'

I must confess to an even bigger social aberration: until recently, I didn't like tea, never drank the stuff. But eventually, the pressure to take tea conquered me, the huge endeavour of saying no, on average every half an hour of every day, to offers of *cha khahben?* was too great a burden to bear. Now, I'm pretty well hooked.

And, of course, even here there's no escaping the assault on your tastebuds with the onslaught of sugar. Whether at the office or in a shop, bargaining over the price of a carpet, the offer of tea invariably comes with three spoonfuls of sugar to a cup, whether you asked for it or not.

So I not only drink tea now, but I have acquired, been forced to acquire, a taste for sweet tea. But, I feel my mouth tingling with every mouthful as the plague sets to work turning those spoonfuls of sugar into acids which attack my poor teeth.

I'm fearfully counting the days now until I turn into a sugar fiend altogether, until the sugar from the numerous cups of tea spreads its evil influence and manages to persuade my body, fool it into thinking, that I cannot survive without the next sugar fix. Suddenly one day, I'll have a craving for *chom chom* and I'll find myself in *Ambala's*, not knowing how I got there. My God, what a frightening thought!



Sweetmeats can be dangerously sweet!

— Star photo



Norwegian Minister for Development Cooperation Kari Nordheim-Larsen visiting the UCEP Dhaka Technical School in the city's Mirpur area yesterday. — Star photo

**What's on today...**

**Discussion on Nazrul:** The cultural wing of Russian Embassy and Dhaka Film Club jointly have organised a discussion and film show to mark the 96th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre. Time: 6 pm. Film researcher Anupam Hayat will present a paper on 'Nazrul in film'.

**Nazrul Instt:** The institute has organised a discussion on Nazrul on the occasion of 96th birth anniversary of the poet. Venue: Dhanmondi residence of the poet. Time: 4:30pm. Chief guest: M Shamsul Islam, Minister for Commerce and Information.

**Bangla Academy:** The Academy has organised a discussion on Nazrul to mark his birth anniversary. Venue: Seminar room of the academy. Time: 11 am.

**Zahir Raihan Film Society:** The society will screen the films, 'Ay! Carmela (Spain)' and 'Indochina (France)'. Venue: German Cultural Centre. Time: 4:30 and 6:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Ramna:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 5:30pm. Dr ABM Abdullah, Director, Jute Research, will deliver a talk on 'Jute Geo-Textiles'.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka City:** The 3rd weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Segunbagicha High School:** The foundation-laying ceremony of a new science building will be held. Chief guest: Md Irshadul Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Education. Venue: School premises, Topkhana Road. Time: 9 am.

**What's on tomorrow...**

**Seminar on Neonate:** The Bangladesh Pediatric Association has organised a seminar on high risk neonate and its care. Venue: IPGMR. Time: 12:00 Noon.

**Free eye clinic:** The Bangabandhu Medical Centre will hold a week-long free eye clinic. Venue: Centre premises at 5/D Siddeswari, Shantinagar. Call 883014 or 862416 for details.

**BSSF congress begins**

By Staff Correspondent

Justice K M Sobhan has called for stopping retrenchment of child labour without making alternative arrangements for their livelihood.

He was addressing as chief guest the opening session of the three-day Sixth Congress of Bangladesh Sangjukta Sramik Federation (BSSF) in the city yesterday.

With BSSF president Mokheesur Rahman in the chair, the function was addressed by representatives of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Confederation of Labour (WCL), Dutch labour organisation CNV, SKOP leaders Praptuddin Ahmed and Zafrul Hasan, says a press release.

**London Magic Circle honours Jewel Aich**

By Staff Correspondent

Magician Jewel Aich has been elected 'Member of the Inner Magic Circle' with the Silver Star recently.

The London Magic Circle, a prestigious magicians' organisation, honoured the Bangladeshi sorcerer with this distinction and gave a reception in his honour on May 8 at the Victory Service Club, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The official publication of the London Magic Circle 'The Magic Circular' honoured Jewel by writing its cover stories on his life and works on two occasions, says a press release.

**MSc admission test schedule**

By Staff Correspondent

Schedules of the admission test for MSc (first part) 1995-96 session, in some departments of the Science and Biological Science faculty of Dhaka University have been announced, reports UNB.

The test in each department will be held everyday from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.

According to schedules, the dates of the test in different departments are as follows:

Tests in the Departments of Applied Chemistry and Chemical Technology and Botany will be held on June 3 (Saturday). Statistics and Soil Science on June 4 (Sunday). Mathematics and Biology on June 5 (Monday). Chemistry on June 6 (Tuesday). Bio-Chemistry on June 7 (Wednesday). Physics on June 8 (Thursday). Geography on June 10 (Saturday) and Psychology on June 11 (Sunday).

**Hanif off to Cairo**

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Mohammad Hanif left Dhaka for Cairo last evening to attend the annual Global Advisory Committee workshop of the Local Initiative Facility for the Urban Environment (LIFE), scheduled to be held in the capital of Egypt from May 24 to 26.

The DCC Mayor will chair one of the sessions of this international conference, says a press release.

Mohammad Hanif is expected to return home on May 28.

**102 held in city**

Police rounded up 102 people on various charges from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours, reports UNB.

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**Office of the Executive Engineer RHD**

Ferry Divn, Barisal

**RHD TENDER NOTICE**

- Tender Notice No : 116 of RHD, Ferry Divn, Barisal 94-95.
- Name of work : As described below.
- Eligibility of contractor : (RHD), General category contractor as per financial capacity and territorial jurisdiction.
- Availability of tender schedule : (1) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna. (2) Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal. (Only office hours. No tender will be sold on the date of opening tender schedule).
- Tender receiving officer : (1) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Circle, Khulna. (2) Executive Engineer, RHD, Mechl. Ferry Divn, Barisal/Khulna.
- Last date of selling tender schedule : 28-5-95 (Only office hours).
- Date and time of opening tender schedule : 29-5-95/15-2-1402 at 1 pm.

Group No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Earnest Money
1.	Supplying spare parts for 75 HP/120 HP. Hydromaster Ford engine of Upazila type, D-type, C-type and A-type Ferry of different Ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk 1,35,900/-	2,718/-
2.	Supplying spare parts for repairing of propulsion unit of 110 HP. Daf engine No. 66006 of Utility Ferry under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk 1,01,450/-	2,015/-
3.	Supplying spare parts for 75/120 HP Hydromaster (Newford) engine of A-type, C-type, Upazila and D-type Ferry of different Ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk 1,33,500/-	2,770/-
4.	Supplying electrical spare parts for 150 KW Mann engine of different Utility ferries of different Ferry ghat under Ferry Sub-Divn, Barisal during the year 1994-95.	Tk 1,02,900/-	2,058/-

DFP-12040-13/5  
G-784

Executive Engineer, RHD  
Ferry Divn, Barisal

**Children's Bangla encyclopaedia soon**

The printing work for the publication of a children's encyclopaedia in four volumes is going on in full swing, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy will publish the encyclopaedia, first of its kind in the country, in Bangla at a cost of Taka 85 lakh.

This was disclosed at a meeting of editors of the encyclopaedia at the academy in

the city yesterday. State minister for Women and Children Affairs and chairperson of the Academy, Begum Sarwari Rahman presided over the meeting.

The first volume of the encyclopaedia is expected to be out next month and the remaining volumes will be published by September this year. The compilation of the Encyclopaedia began in May

1993. The encyclopaedia will contain three thousand titles in three fields: Science and technology, sociology and human studies.

Sixty writers have composed the encyclopaedia and three renowned scientists and educationists have been editing it for publication. Ten thousand copies of each volume will be printed initially.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Ministry of Education  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
No. S 13/1-17(Technology)/95/213-Edn Dated: 9-5-95/26-1-1402 BS

**Notice**

**Sub : Monbusho Undergraduate Scholarship (1996) offered by the Government of Japan**

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladesh nationals for undergraduate level study in the undermentioned subjects under Monbusho Scholarship offered by the Government of Japan during 1996 session.

- Engineering (2) Medical Science
- Scholarship opportunity 1(one). Candidate will be selected on the basis of total marks obtained in Secondary and Higher Secondary examinations.
- Candidates should possess 85% marks in aggregate with 1st Division separately in Secondary & Higher Secondary examinations and over 80% marks each in Chemistry, Physics & Mathematics in Higher Secondary examination.
- Age of candidate should not be above 22 (twenty-two) years & below 17 (seventeen) years (born between 2nd April 1974 and 1st April 1979) on 1-4-96.
- The candidate must learn the Japanese language and take lessons in Japanese.
- Candidates already finally selected for any other scholarship by the Ministry of Education need not apply.
- Legal action will be taken against any one intentionally furnishing false statement/information.
- Two sets of application (each paper/photograph etc. in duplicate) in English in the undermentioned proforma in plain paper with bio-data accompanied with two copies recent passport size photographs, attested true copies of original certificates & mark sheets of all examinations passed should reach by 7-6-95. One copy each of the papers & photographs should be stapled in each set and such two sets should be submitted under the same envelope.
- The proforma of application should be as the following:

Application for Monbusho Undergraduate Scholarship (1996) of the Govt of Japan

Name of subject prayed for:

A) Name of candidate  
B) Father's name  
C) Present address (including telegraph office):  
D) Results of SSC & HSC examinations

Name of Examination	Board	Centre & Roll No	Total marks obtained	Percentage
SSC				
HSC				

Total marks obtained in SSC & HSC exams & percentage

Name of respective subject	Physics	Mathematics	Chemistry	Total marks	Percentage
Marks obtained					

F) Date of birth & age on 1.4.96  
G) Permanent address  
H) Nationality  
I) Detailed description of any other scholarship if selected for by the Ministry of Education.

Signature in full of the applicant  
10. Application should reach the address of the undersigned by post or in the wooden box No. 2 kept at Gate No. 5 of Bangladesh Secretariat by the above prescribed date. Incomplete application will be treated as cancelled. "Monbusho Undergraduate Scholarship" & "Name of Subject" should be distinctly superscribed on the envelope containing application.  
11. Candidates selected by the Ministry of Education shall have to take part in written test & viva voce at the Embassy of Japan in Dhaka.  
12. Decision of the authorities will be treated as final regarding selection of candidate.  
DPP-12141-15/5  
G-791

Md Abdul Jabbar  
Deputy Secretary (Uni)

**PIXEL SOLUTION PRIVATE TUITION IN GRAPHIC DESIGN**

A London based Graphic Designer will be offering tuition to students on a one to one basis on softwares such as Quarkxpress, Pagemaker, Photoshop, Corel etc. Students will be expected to undertake course work which will take them through initial concept to final output. The course is geared for private and industrial students alike.

For further information, please write to  
Sammy Alam, Pixel Solution, 7/1 Eastern Housing Apartments,  
103 Elephant Road, Siddeswari, Dhaka 1217.

**Bata CORRIGENDUM NOTICE TO THE SHAREHOLDERS**

Please read the notice published in the Daily Star on 22nd May, 1995 for appointment of Auditors of Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Limited in its 23rd Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on 31st May, 1995, as follows :

"As required under Section 211 of the Companies Act, 1994, this is to notify for information of all concerned that the Company has received a notice from a shareholder proposing for appointment of M/s. Khan Wahab Shafiqe Rahman & Co., Chartered Accountants, 55 Dilkusha C/A., Dhaka-1000, as Auditors of Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Limited for the year 1995 in its 23rd Annual General Meeting scheduled to be held on 31st May, 1995.

The existing Auditors, M/s. Rahman Rahman Huq, Chartered Accountants, 52 Motilheel C/A., Dhaka-1000, have expressed their willingness to continue as Auditors of the Company for the year 1995."

M. SAIDUZZAMAN  
Company Secretary  
Bata Shoe Co. (Bangladesh) Limited  
Tongi, Gazipur

Dhaka  
23rd May, 1995

**WORLD BANK VACANCY**

**Position** Program Officer (Infrastructure)

**Job:** To support the World Bank's operational objectives through close follow-up on project matters and through sector analysis. The Program Officer would work primarily on Urban Development and Water Supply projects and issues, but may also be concerned with other sectors. He/She would (i) keep abreast of developments in the sector(s) and prepare analytical reports to clarify issues and help formulate strategies for Bank assistance, and (ii) work closely with headquarters staff in the preparation, appraisal and supervision of a specific portfolio of bank-assisted projects. This work is expected to be required for the next several years. The person chosen would be recruited on a three-year contract which could be extended provided performance is satisfactory.

**Qualifications:** University degree in Engineering/Architecture/Urban Planning/Economics/Other Social Science with 10 years experience in implementing projects, including procurement of goods and services. Foreign training and/or experience would be preferred. Candidates' appreciation of economic and financial work in the sector would be of great advantage. Proficiency in spoken and written English and Bangla is essential. Women are encouraged to apply.

The World Bank pays competitive salaries commensurate with the UN salary structure and provides medical benefits for staff and dependents and attractive termination benefits.

Applications with complete curriculum vitae and contact telephone number should be addressed to:

**World Bank Resident Mission  
Ref. Program Officer (Infrastructure)  
3A Paribagh  
GPO Box 97, Dhaka**

Applications will be treated in strict confidence and should include the names of three work-related references who will not be consulted without the permission of the applicant. In view of the large number of applications expected, replies will be sent to short-listed candidates only.

**Deadline:** Applications should be submitted by May 30, 1995.