

Dhaka Day by Day

Drama of Dining out in Dhaka

by Farah Ghuznavi

In recent years, the opening of a number of excellent restaurants has greatly extended the range of choice for Dhakaites (with full pockets) who are planning to eat out. The cuisines available range from the ubiquitous Chinese restaurants, to places serving Thai, Korean, Indonesian, Italian, Indian, and of course, traditional Bengali food. The food is very good in most of these places, as is the service, but I must confess that a few of my experiences of eating out in Dhaka have been less than satisfactory.

One such incident took place a couple of years ago, when I went out to dinner at one of Dhaka's better-known restaurants with two friends. Since we were very hungry by the time we reached there, we were pleased when our lunch arrived shortly after we had ordered. Conversation had been flowing briskly between the three of us, so one of my friends and I looked up in surprise when another's voice abruptly trailed away in mid-sentence. She was gazing in fascinated horror at the forkful of salad that she was holding, and as we looked at her expectantly, she said in a voice of petrified disbelief, "There's a worm on my fork!"

As we looked at her fork, we saw a tiny worm waving back and forth on a shred of lettuce leaf, and the other calmly said, "So there is."

That was the last moment of calm for quite some time! My friend shrieked and dropped her fork, the waiters rushed up to find out what was wrong, and I found myself quite unable to maintain the air of gravity appropriate for the situation. While the discoverer of the worm freaked out, the other started explaining to the crowd of restaurant staff what had happened, and I ran off to the toilet, where I collapsed in hysterical laughter. The former who is notorious for her squeamishness, rushed into the toilet a few minutes later, clutching her heaving stomach, to find me convulsed on the floor!

Her outrage at my appalling lack of sensitivity knew no bounds, and in fact, did a good bit to dispel her nausea. After she had told me off, she felt much better (at least, her retching subsided), and the two of us

returned to our table to find our friend calmly eating her lunch! Since we had ordered the same dish, our plates had been removed, presumably to see if any relative of the offending worm was lurking in my shredded lettuce. I was very disappointed, since I was still very hungry. For the discoverer, eating was out of the question, since she was off her food for the rest of the day.

Meanwhile, when the scandalised friend asked the other who was eating, what on earth she was doing, she replied calmly, "I was hungry, so I started without you. Aren't you going to order anything else?" If the former had been furious at my lack of sensibility, the latter's attitude incensed her so much, she subsided into silence.

Since the latter had ordered steak, there was little likelihood of any hapless creature surfacing there, so we sat there in silence while she continued eating placidly. Needless to say, she has a strong stomach.

The waiters had gone off, en masse, to kill the cook for not having washed the salad properly, and chaos reigned in the restaurant as loud voices could be heard shrieking in the kitchen, with everyone clearly blaming everyone else. They subsequently returned with grave countenances, to ask if we would like something else to eat. It would be on the house, of course, we were assured, I was greatly tempted to reply in the affirmative, but one look at my offended friend's face, and I decided that I valued my life too much. The other was unmoved by her disapproval and continued eating. She seemed to take a long time eating, since we were starving understandably enough, sulking.

Needless to say, we were not presented with a bill at the end of the meal, and the waiters and the manager apologised profusely. In fact, I actually felt quite sorry for them, but the worm picker, to this day, blanches when the name of the restaurant is mentioned! I should add, in all fairness, that my subsequent visits to the restaurant have passed without incident.

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Implement new SSC syllabus: Sircar

KHULNA, Aug 4: Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar has sought sincere cooperation from all shades of opinion to implement the newly designed syllabus at SSC level, reports BSS.

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the newly constructed academic building of Sundarban Government College here yesterday.

The Education Minister said the government was working relentlessly for the overall development of education in the country. With this end in view the government had made the highest budgetary allocation for the education sector to develop schools and colleges in each and every thana, he added.

Later, the minister addressed a gathering at Majid Memorial City College. He also gave assurance for extending all-out cooperation from the government for the development of Khulna Aliya Madrasah.

Course on research methodology begins at DU

By DU Correspondent

Higher Human Studies Research Centre of Dhaka University will arrange a week-long training course on "research methodology" starting from August 5, at the centre.

The training course will be formally inaugurated by Prof Aminul Islam, Dean of the Faculty of Arts of the university on August 5 at 9:30 am and it will continue till August 12.

Young teachers, M Phil and PhD researchers will take part in the course.

Thirty five experts on "research methodology" will deliver lectures in the course.

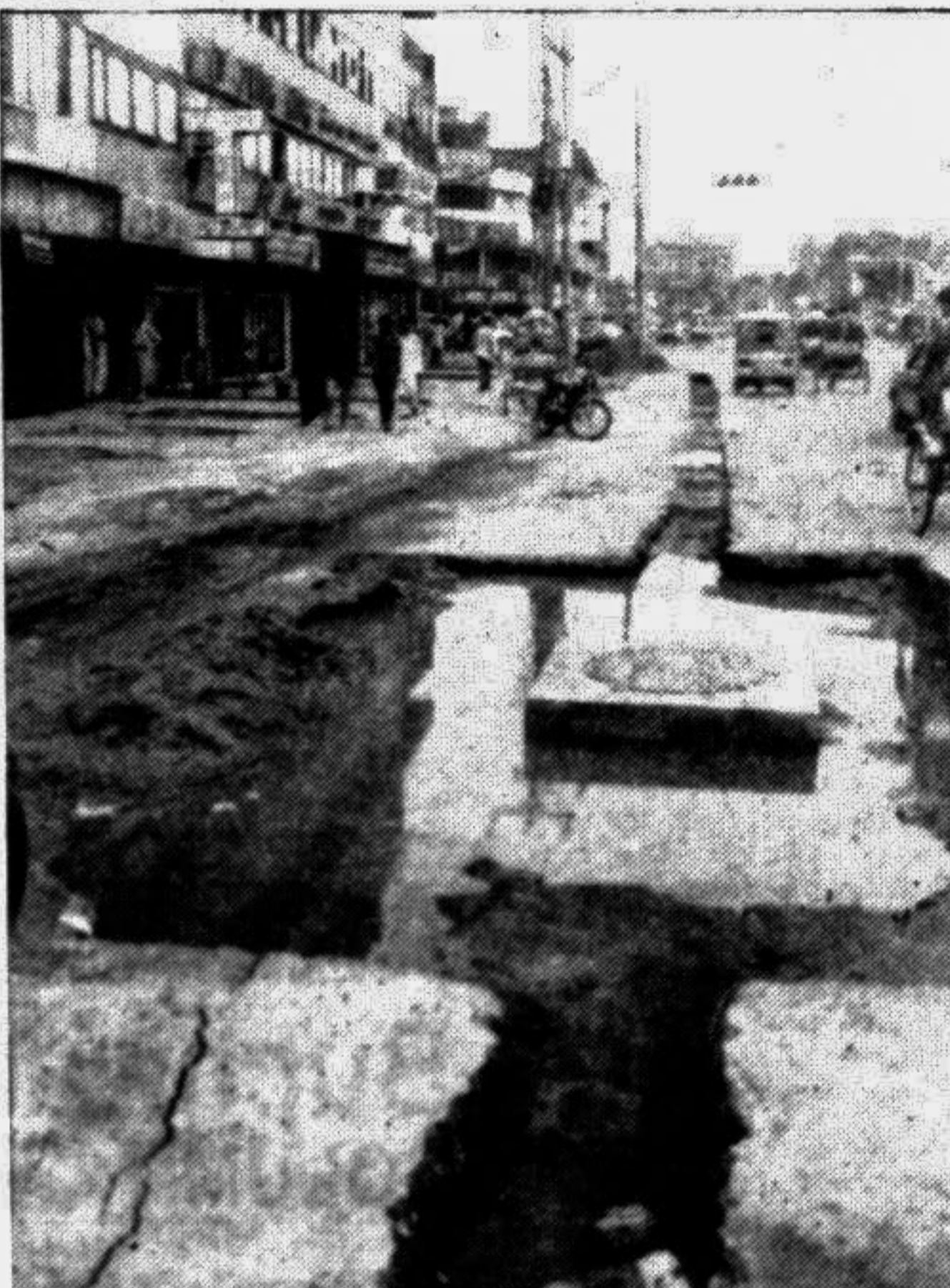
Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed will distribute certificates among the participants on August 12 at 4:30 pm at the centre.

Obituary

Farhad Begum, mother of Information Secretary Dr Ekram Hossain, died at a clinic in the city yesterday after prolonged illness, reports BSS.

She was 77. She left behind three sons and three daughters. The namaj-e-janaza of Farhad Begum was held at Malibagh jame-mosque. She was buried at Banani graveyard.

The qulshuani of Farhad Begum will be held at 17-B, Malibagh Chowdhurypara on Monday after Asr prayers.



FOR WHOM THIS GAPING HOLE AWAITS: This road in front of Kataban mosque near the junction of Sonargaon and New Elephant Road has become a virtual death trap for passersby. T & T dug up this road one month back for laying cables for digital telephone lines. — Star photo

Dhaka Reporters' Wage movement for socialism, calls Mozaffar

Aug 24, 25

The first conference of Dhaka Reporters' Unity will be held on August 24 and 25 in the Jatiya Press Club auditorium, reports BSS.

The convening committee of the unity took the decision in its meeting yesterday with its convenor Shafiqul Kabir in the chair.

The convening committee also finalised the list of 261 members of the unity and adopted an election schedule for electing a 21-member executive committee.



A scene from the play Chakkar staged by the Padatik at the Guide House auditorium recently. — Star photo



Art on the Berlin Wall — an exhibition of photographs by Markku Peltonen began at the Gallery Tone in the city yesterday. — Star photo

What's on today....

Dhaka City Corporation: The Slum Development Department of the DCC has arranged a programme to inaugurate satellite school, biogas oven, and tree plantation. Loan also will be distributed among the slum dwellers. Chief guest: Mayor Mohammad Hanif. Venue: Mirpur tinshed slum. Time: 4pm.

Nutrition Society: Organises a symposium on the theme 'Breast feeding: Empowering women.' Chief guest: Deputy Minister for Health Md Sirajul Hoque. Venue: Institute of Food Science and Technology auditorium, BCSIR. Time: 10 am.

Discussion on Frederic Engles: On the occasion of 100th death anniversary of Frederic Engles. Dr Ahmed Sharif will preside. Venue: Seminar room, TSC of Dhaka University. Time: 5 pm.

Art on the Berlin Wall: An exhibition of photographs by Markku Peltonen. Open daily 10 am-8pm till August 10. Venue: Gallery Tone, House — 47, Road-1, Dhanmandi.

GAID: The Global Assistance for Integrated Development has organised a discussion to formulate some recommendations on anti-drug campaign. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30 am.

Purbita: A reception will be accorded to artist Kazi Mozammel Hossain. Poet Asad Chowdhury will preside over the function organised by Purbita. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 4 pm.

ICMAB: The Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) will organise a Lecture Session. Masud Khan, FCA, will present a paper entitled Organisation & Role of Internal Audit. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nilkhet. Time: 5 pm.

Seminar on environment: Bangladesh Society for Conservation of Environment will hold a seminar on "Environment of Bangladesh." Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 4 pm.

Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka: The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 5:30 pm.

Kanthashilon: Kanthashilon, a recital organisation, will present two productions — 'Rabithakur Kabithakur' and 'Gandharir Abedan.' Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 7:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Dhaka Film Club: Presents a programme on the birth anniversary of Zahir Raihan. Discussion and film show. Venue: German Cultural Centre, House-10, Road-9, Dhanmondi.

Discussion on Hiroshima Day: Arranged by the Bangladesh Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation. Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sharfuddin will present key-note paper. Dr Anisuzzaman will preside. Venue: Engineers' Institute. Time: 4:30 pm.

Symposium on Medical Education: Organised by the Further Improvement of Medical Colleges Project. Chief guest: Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf. Venue: Sasaki auditorium, ICDDR,B. Time: 9 am.

Memorial meet on Aminul Huq: MuktiJoddha Sanghati Parishad has organised the meeting. Venue: TSC auditorium. Time: 5 pm.

Weather

Thundershower likely

Moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by seasonal gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Dhaka divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra with moderately heavy falls at places over Barisal and Khulna divisions during the 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office says light rain or drizzle may occur at a few places over Sylhet division and the regions of Rangpur and Dinajpur.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

In its outlook for subsequent two days weathermen predicted that weather is likely to improve at the end period. Giving extended outlook for another five days Met Office forecast that rainfall activities may increase.

Meantime, Dinajpur experienced the highest 65 mm rain during the last 12 hours till 6pm today. Bogra had 63 mm rain, Madaripur 42, Satkhira 29, Ishurdi 25, Mymensingh 22, Kutubdia 19, Comilla and Chandpur 17 each, Rangpur 16, Feni and Dhaka 13 each, Faridpur 12, Rajshahi 10, Sitakund, Srimangal and Tangail 8 each, Cox's Bazar 7, Bholu and Rangamati 5 each and Barisal 4 mm shower during the period.

Country's highest temperature 32.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the lowest 23.3 degrees at Feni. Sun sets today at 6:40 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:30 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns today are:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	in degrees Celsius		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	25.8	90	82
Chittagong	30.2	25.3	95	73
Rajshahi	29.7	25.0	90	85
Khulna	29.4	25.8	97	86
Barisal	31.8	24.6	82	82
Sylhet	32.5	25.6	85	95
Cox's Bazar	29.5	25.8	95	90



Art on the Berlin Wall — an exhibition of photographs by Markku Peltonen began at the Gallery Tone in the city yesterday. — Star photo

32 rickshaws seized

The Dhaka City Corporation on Tuesday seized 32 unlicensed rickshaws from Bangsal crossings during a drive conducted with the cooperation of the metropolitan police, reports BSS.

A police press release said that Taka 600 was also realised from the rickshaw-pullers as fine. The drive is being carried out to reduce traffic pressure and road accidents in the city.

KIB relief programme

The Krishibid Institute, Bangladesh (KIB) has taken up a post-flood rehabilitation programme for the small and marginal farmers of the flood-hit areas, reports UNB.

KIB will distribute some five lakh saplings of fruits and vegetables. The Central Executive Council of the Institute urged the agriculturists to take urgent steps for successful implementation of the programme.

Art on the Berlin Wall

Photographs of paintings on the Berlin Wall from the core of a unique exhibition that began at the Gallery Tone in the city yesterday.


The show "Art on the Berlin Wall" is a collection of historical photographs by the Finnish-born photographer Markku Peltonen.

With his lens, Peltonen, who has been living and working in Berlin since 1981, has captured for eternity the scores of graffiti that once adorned the west side of the Berlin Wall, before it was finally pulled down in 1991.

The current exhibition, which runs till August 10, was brought together at the initiative of the Goethe Institut in Dhaka and the Gallery Tone.

Inaugurating the show at the Gallery's new premises, the Honorary Consul General of Finland in Bangladesh, Zeaul Huq said the pictures were documents of how people felt over a period of time.

Recalling the wall, few slabs of which remain today as mere museum pieces, H Lechner, Directress of the Goethe Institut, said: "These picture don't show the checkpoints and the barbed-wire, nor the guards with dogs which were very much part of the wall. The wall was a bitter solution — it still exists very much in the minds of people."



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