

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Cake that Divides Dhaka

by Abul Kashem

US First Lady Hillary Clinton came to know a traditional Dhaka city-based food item not many Dhakaites are familiar with today. When she came here last year the food was even served to her as a special dish which has far long been uniquely Dhaka's own. Known as 'bakarkhani', the food is a delicacy with people living in the old part of the city and not so popular with the new inhabitants. On that count it almost divides the city in two parts. In one part it is on the list of almost everybody's daily meals and in another it is a rare commodity. Dhakaites in the old part have been eating this food for generations. Till now some areas like Sutrapur, Lalbagh, Nasiruddin Sardar Lane, Nazimuddin Road, Lakshimbazar, Malitola, Churitol, Bangshal, Kaitabazar, Goalhat, Ramdewry have exclusive bakarkhani shops.

As a food item bakarkhani is not very costly nor is it highly covetable. But it is something very special and interesting of course. It may be thought of as a modified version of general 'tandoor roti', a kind of bread baked inside a covered oven. It will perhaps be more correct to call it a cake. However, it is prepared in the same way a 'tandoor roti' is fashioned.

Oil, flour, butter, sugar, banana, cheese

can prepare it so easily. And God knows why it tastes so good only when it is prepared by them. It is learnt that bakarkhani becomes tasteful with a waterlike substance thrown on it while it is in the oven. It is however a professional secret no cook is ready to share with others.

Making and selling of bakarkhani is a business that involves small capital. Ten to 15 thousand takas can be enough for opening a moderate bakarkhani shop.

Although bakarkhani is widely known as a food item of Dhaka's own, local people are not involved with this business. With rare exceptions, bakarkhani business is mostly confined among people from Lakhair (thana under Habiganj). Usually bakarkhani is not sold outside Dhaka. Sylheti people have kept this business alive. But even in greater Sylhet it is not available.

However it is learnt that Dhaka's Nawabs used to like this cake. One Yousof Mia, who has a bakarkhani shop in Lalbagh near Ahsan Manjil, informs that Nawab Ahsan Ullah's wife introduced this cake here from Kashmir. Maybe, for that reason it is very tasteful with Kashmiri tea. Bakarkhani is not a seasonal food. You can enjoy it at any time of the year.



Elaborate preparation for bakarkhani

Photo: The writer

are the ingredients. Oil, water and flour are enough for making a common type of bakarkhani. Its price differs according to the ingredients used. It is not a homemade cake. The price of a piece of ordinary bakarkhani is one taka. Specially made bakarkhani may sell upto three taka a piece.

The process of preparation of bakarkhani is very simple. But don't try to do it yourself. If you are not an expert cook, chances are you will spoil the whole thing. Only a skilled cook

But at the time of Korbani Eid it is in great demand.

New technology has not yet touched bakarkhani. People with rural background have been running this business for ages. At least 500-600 bakarkhani shops still carry on a declining business in the old town of Dhaka. Bakarkhani is a part of our culinary history. It is a reminder of our Nawabs. Only time can say whether it can survive in competition with the fast food getting so popular.



Some unidentified gunmen fired at the residence of the British Deputy High Commissioner in the city yesterday. A police personnel points at the mark left by the bullet.

### Formation of laws suggested to check price hike

Some leading businessmen yesterday suggested that the authorities should form a special committee that would list the essentials need to be imported to keep prices normal during Ramadan, reports UNB.

In a review meeting on prices of essentials in the city they also called for engaging the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) in importing essential items for the month of Ramadan when prices soar every year.

Floating the idea of a special committee, former president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) M Yunus said the committee would assess the requirements of essential consumer goods for the holy month of fasting.

Added A Rab Chowdhury, another former DCCI president: "The government should make necessary arrangements for importing essentials at least four months before the month of Ramadan."

Yunus also suggested that the TCB, the state trading agency, must have a definite role in overcoming the crisis of essentials and it should play a special role during Ramadan.

Blaming an 'internal mismanagement' for the price hike in Ramadan, DCCI President Ali Hossain said the government should enact necessary laws to keep stable the prices of consumer items in the country.

Commerce and Informa-

### Govt Laboratory lifts school debate trophy

The debating club of the Government Laboratory High School clinched the second inter-school debate competition-96 defeating Vikharunna debating club in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The six-day competition was participated by Vikharunna Noon School, Holy Cross School, Saint Joseph School, Government Laboratory High School, BAF Shaheen School and Mohammadpur Preparatory High School.

### What's on today...

**Film show:** The film *Kokhono Aasent* by Zahir Raihan will be screened. Venue: Russian Culture Centre. Time: 2:30 pm.

**Demonstration on internet:** The Electronics and Computer Science Department of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will organise the programme. Venue: Chemistry Gallery, JU. Time: 11:15 am.

**Cultural evening:** The Anirban Krira Sangsad will organise the programme to mark the *Surasati puja*. Venue: Club premises, Shakhari Bazar. Time: 7 pm.

**Polish film show:** The Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies will organise the screening of the film 'Blue' by Krzysztof. Venue: German Culture Centre. Time: 2:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: House-36, Road 6, Block C, Banani Model Town. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Dhaka North West:** The weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: 23, Green Road. Time: 5 pm.

### Discussion on Zahir Raihan

By Staff Correspondent

The 24th disappearance day of writer, film-maker and freedom fighter Zahir Raihan was observed in the city yesterday.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury, journalist Wahidul Haq and film actor Syed Hasan Imam participated at a remembrance programme organised by the Zahir Raihan Film Society at the Russian Cultural Centre in the evening.

Syed Hasan Imam president, Bangladesh Federation of Film Societies recalled the contributions of Zahir Raihan to the freedom fighters, artists and the expatriate government during the Liberation War.

Wahidul Haq, Joint Editor, The Daily Star pointed out that Raihan was a true patriot who was a freedom fighter in every respect.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury noted that Raihan's films 'Stop Genocide', 'A State is Born' or 'Jiban Theke Neja' should be screened now so that the younger generation may be made aware of the country's history and the meaning of democracy.

### Obituary

Syed Fakhruddin Iqbal, senior sub-editor of the Daily Janakantha died of cardiac arrest in the city yesterday. He was 48, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife and two daughters. The namaz-e-janaza of the deceased will be held at the Baitul Mokarram Mosque after Zohar prayers.

Before joining the Janakantha, he worked in the Dainik Bangla for a long time. He started his career in the daily Ittefaq.

Meanwhile, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Shahjahan Mia president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Abul Kalam Azad and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, president and general secretary of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) condoled the death of Fakhruddin Iqbal.

In a joint message they said Iqbal had made a pioneering role in the journalism and his death had also made irreparable loss to the professions.

They also conveyed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed to Almighty Allah.

### Govt plans to set up a varsity in Barisal: Biswas

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday pointed out that the private sector should come forward to set up a university in Barisal as this has been done in other parts of the country, reports UNB.

He, however, indicated that setting up a full-fledged university is under active consideration of the government.

President Biswas was talking to the newly elected executive committee members of Dhaka-based Barisal District Association when they called on him at Bangabhaban.

The members of the delegation was led by its president Zainul Abedin. He stressed the need for improvement of road communication and steamer services on the Dhaka-Barisal route and regular dredging of the river-channels.



The Jatiya Kabita Parishad held a press conference in the Jatiya Press Club yesterday in connection with the 10th National Poetry Festival which begins tomorrow. — Star photo

### PM takes iftar at Senakunja

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday had her iftar with the members of the armed forces at Senakunja at Dhaka Cantonment, reports BSS.

### New organisation

An organisation named Anti-Drug Forum has been formed in the city, reports BSS.

The Forum, a non-political organisation is headed by noted jurist and writer Ghazi Shamsur Rahman as chairman and social worker Badrul Ahsan as secretary general.

### VEHICLE FOR SALE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited for disposal of one unit Nissan Petrol 4200 C.C. 1990 Model Jeep. Interested buyers are requested to submit their quotations alongwith 5% Earnest Money in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft (refundable) latest by 6th February '96 upto 2.00 P.M. The Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders without assigning any reason. The vehicle is available for inspection at the Head Office of the Company during Office hours upto 05.02.1996.

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### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Director  
National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Memo No. NICR/Misc-23/85/135 Dated: 21-1-96

### Change of Name of Office

It is hereby notified for general information that vide Govt Order No. Pro. Ba/Pada-4/93/869 dt. 02/12/95 the name of this institution is changed as follows:

Old Name	New Name
Cancer Institute & Research Hospital (CI RH)	National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital (NICR)

Prof. Md Ameer Hossain  
Director-cum-Professor  
National Institute of Cancer Research & Hospital,  
Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.  
DFP-2087-27/1  
G-188



এইচ আর সি লাকি কুপন ড্র-এর ফলাফল  
(ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা, ১৯৯৬)

এইচ আর সি লাকি কুপন লটারীতে বিজয়ী কুপন নম্বর নিম্নে প্রদত্ত হলো :

পুরস্কার	কুপন নং
১ম : ঢাকা-কলিকাতা-ঢাকা একটি এয়ার টিকেট	৭০৪৪
২য় : ঢাকা-কক্সবাজার-ঢাকা একটি এয়ার টিকেট	৫৭৬৬
৩য় : কাই কুম-এ ২ জনের লাঞ্চ	৩১৩৮
৪র্থ : এইচ আর সি টি পট এবং এক বাস এইচ আর সি ক্রোন টি	৩৭৬৪
৫ম : এক বাস এইচ আর সি ক্রোন টি	৩৪৭৪

পুরস্কার প্রাপ্তদের আমাদের অভিনন্দন। অনুগ্রহ করে তাদেরকে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগের অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

এইচ আর সি  
১৯/এফ, সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন  
১৯৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা  
ঢাকা-১০০০। ফোন : ৮৬৪৫৪৬-৪৭, ৯৫৬৫১৮৬



Jujube (boroi), a favourite seasonal fruit is now available in city markets, although at a high price. This picture was taken from the Badamtoli wholesale market where it was being sold at Tk 20 per kg. — Star photo

বিনামূল্যে ২০০ গ্রাম চিনি

এবারও ব্রেন্ডেডে বিশেষ উপহার

এই কার্যক্রম শুধুমাত্র ঢাকা এবং রাজশাহী বিভাগের জন্য

এই সুযোগ ১২ ডিসেম্বর পর্যন্ত

কোকা-কোলা, স্প্রাইট ও ফান্টার যে কোন একটি লিটার বোতল রিফিল করলেই বিনামূল্যে পাবেন ২০০ গ্রাম চিনি।

হুকতারের তৃষ্ণা ও সান্ত্বন্য একই বোতলে

প্রতি লিটার বোতল রিফিলের সাথে বিনামূল্যে ২০০ গ্রাম চিনির ব্যাগ না পেলে সমন্বিত জোকাপথকে নির্দেশিত টেলিফোনে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। ফোন : ৮০১৬৭৮, ৮০১১২৮, ৮০১১১৯ (ঢাকা), ৫৪০৮ (বগুড়া)।