# Dhaka Day by Day

# Cake that Divides Dhaka

by Abul Kashem

US First Lady Hillary Clinton came to know about 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, Lakshmibazar, Malitola, Churitola, Bangshal, Kaltabazar, Goalghat, 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 rooti 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 rooti is fashioned.

Oil. flour. butter, sugar, banana, cheese food. You can enjoy it at any time of the year

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 an 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 ex ceptions, 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 Yousuf 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



Elaborate preparation for bakarkhani

are the ingredients. Oil, water and flour are But at the time of Korbani Eid it is in great 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 bakarkhan If you are not an expert cook, chances are you say whether it can survive in competition will spoil the whole thing. Only a skilled cook with the fast food getting so popular.

Zahir Raihan

By Staff Correspondent

day of writer, film-maker and

freedom fighter Zahir Rathan

was observed in the city yes-

The 24th disappearance

Professor Kabir Chowd-

hury, journalist Wahidul Haq

and film actor Syed Hasan

Imam participated at a remi-

niscence programme organ-ised by the Zahir Raihan Film

Society at the Russian Cul-

dent, Bangladesh Federation

of Film Societies recalled the

contributions of Zahir Raihan

to the freedom fighters.

artistes and the expatriate

government during the Lib-

The Daily Star pointed out

that Raihan was a true patriot

who was a freedom fighter in

Prof Kabir Chowdhury

noted that Rathan's films

"Stop Genocide", "A State is

Born" or "Jiban Theke Neya" should be screened now so

that the younger generation

may be made aware of the

Wahidul Haq. Joint Editor,

eration War.

every respect.

Syed Hasan Imam presi-

tural centre in the evening.

Discussion on Obituary

Photo: The writer

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. The process of preparation of bakarkham Bakarkham is a part of our culinary history. It is very simple. But don't try to do it yourself, is a reminder of our Nawabs. Only time can

Govt plans to set up a varsity in

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.

Syed Fakhruddin lobal senior sub-editor of the Daily

Janakantha died of cardiac

arrest in the city yesterday.

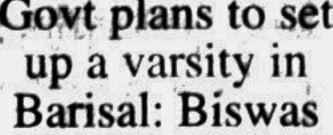
He was 48, reports BSS.

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 journal-ism 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.



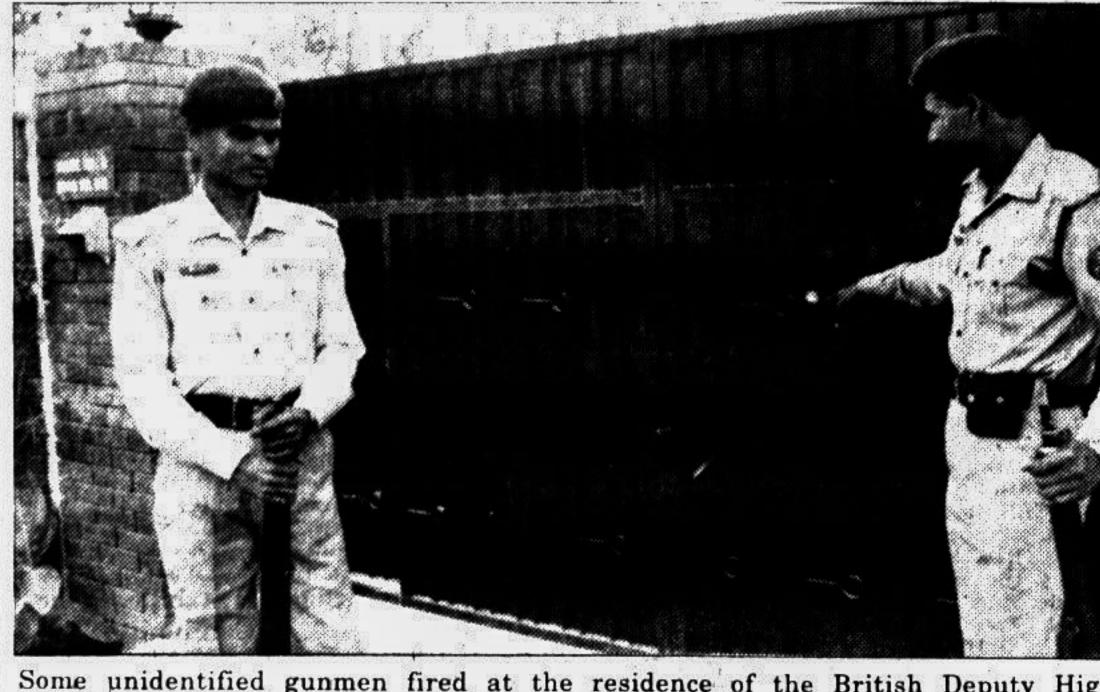
President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday pointed out that the private sector should come forward to set up a university in Barisal as this has been done in other parts of the country, reports

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

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 presi-dent Zainul Abedin. He stressed the need for

improvement of road conmunication and steamer ser vices on the Dhaka-Barisal route and regular dredging of the river-channels.



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 - Star photo

tion Minister M Shamsul Is-

lam, who was chief guest at

the discussion, informed that

the government was thinking

about making TCB play an

important role in overall

but essential job," he said,

noting that the decision to

dismantle the state-owned

trading house was not wise.

"Once we were crazy for so-

cialism, but now we have left

everything to the private sec-

tor...whenever we turn, we

"TCB is doing a thankless

trade and commerce.

turn 180 degrees."

### 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 Vikharunnesa debating club in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

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

Film show: The film Kokhono Aaseni 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 Swarasati 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

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.



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 Canton-

ment, reports BSS. Ministers, chiefs of the three services and diplomats attended the tftar.

# New organisation

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

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.

JANATA INSURANCE O. LTD. 125, Motijheel C/A., Dhaka.

### 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 Cancer Institute & Research Hospital (CIRH)

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

Prof. Md Ameer Hossain Director-cum-Professor National Institute of Cancer Research

DFP-2087-27/1 G-188

& Hospital Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.



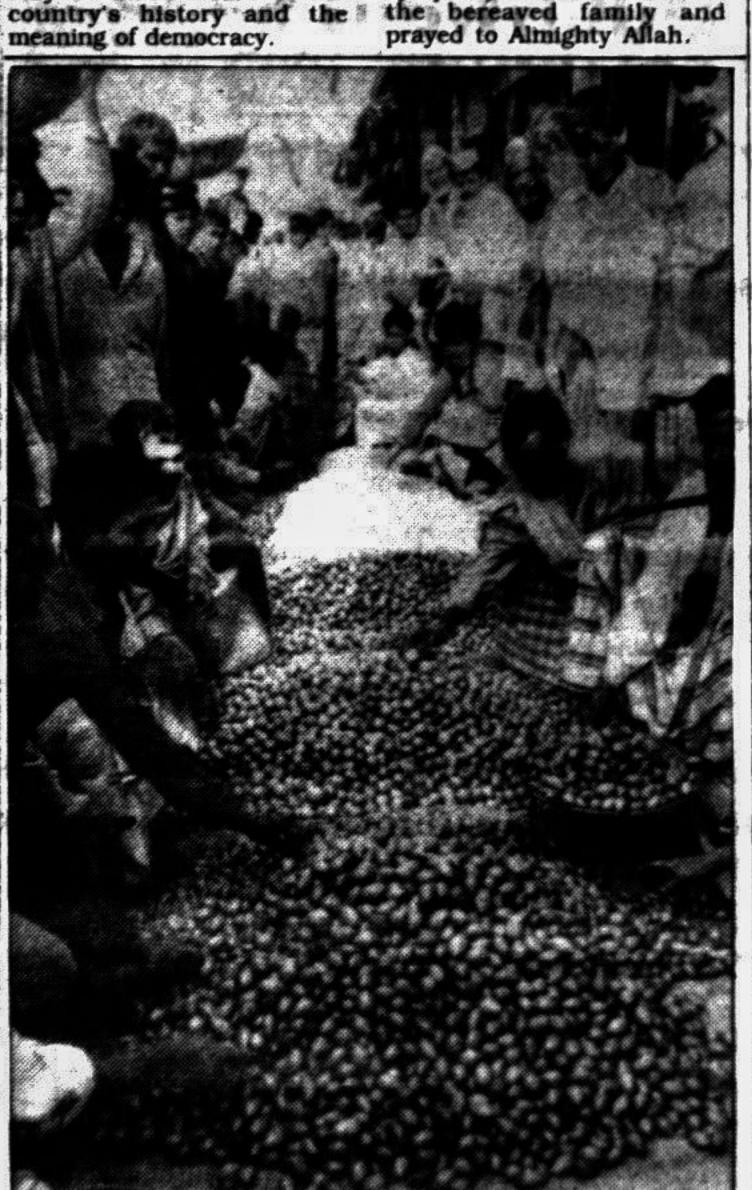
এইচ আর সি লাকি কুপন ড্র-এর ফলাফল (ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা, ১৯৯৬)

এইচ আর সি লাকি কুপন লটারীতে বিজয়ী কুপন নম্বর নিম্নে প্রদত্ত

ı	পুরকার		क्रुशन नर
	১ম ঃ	ঢাকা-কলিকাতা-ঢাকা একটি এয়ার টিকেট	9088
	२य :	ঢাকা-কল্পবাজার-ঢাকা একটি এয়ার টিকেট	৫ ৭৬৬
	৩য়ঃ	কাই রুম-এ ২ <b>জনের লাঞ্চ</b>	৩১%
	8र्थ :	এইচ আর সি টি পট এবং এক বাক্স এইচ আর সি কোন টি	৩ ৭৬৪
	৫ম ঃ	এক বাক্স এইচ আর সি ক্লোন টি	৩8 ৭8

পুরস্কার প্রাপ্তদের আমাদের অভিনন্দন। অনুগ্রহ করে তাদেরকে নিম ठिकानाग्र यागायारगत जनुत्ताथ जानारना २एछ।

> এইচ আর সি ১৯/এফ, সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা **ঢাকা-১০০**০। 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.

