



HISTORY IN GASTRONOMIC DELIGHT --- IFTAR IN OLD DHAKA

IN Dhaka, especially in the old part of it, iftar time is transformed into a veritable period of gastronomical joy during the month of Ramadan. Traditional roadside eateries offer on sale anything from whole lamb roasts to jumbo jilabis. Imported dates, boiled beans and a variety of deep fried munchies mixed with puffed rice abound on the display tables. In addition, shuti kebab, doi bora and an exotic mixture of boro baper polaye khaye (literally meaning 'eaten by the great father's son') testify to why the old Dhaka iftar bazaar gets to be more and more popular, indeed has drawn people to it over the decades. At places like the High Court mazar, as many as a thousand people are offered iftar absolutely free and, of course, every day for the entire period of Ramadan. Thus it is that part of the 400-year history of Dhaka comes to be reflected in the gastronomic delights thrown up at Chawkbazar every time Ramadan comes round. What more could one ask for?

Photo: ANISUR RAHMAN

