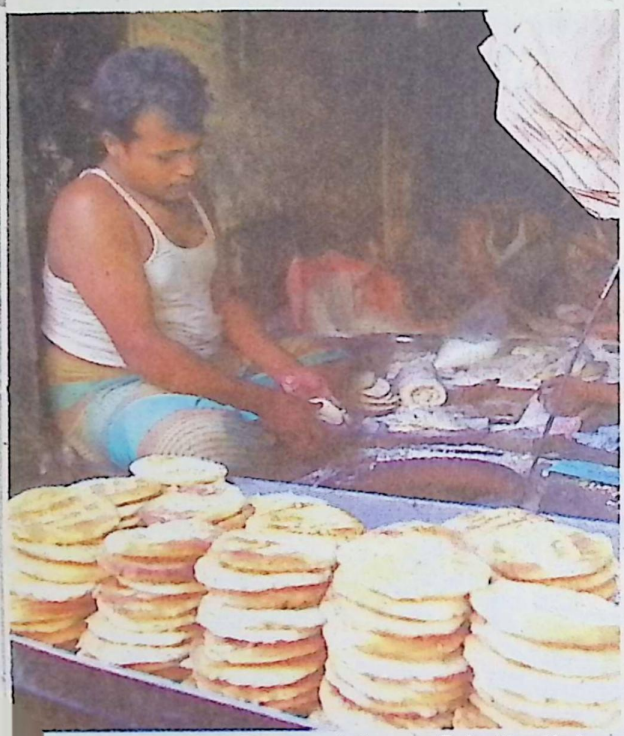


The ususal view of a Bakarkhani bakery.

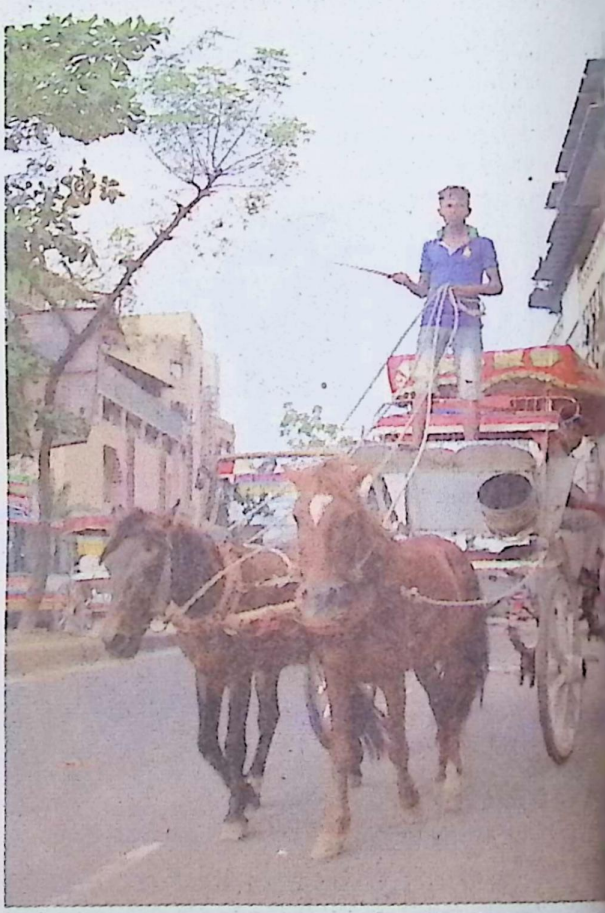
The Bakarkhani Bakers

Bakarkhani, a legendary food of old Dhaka, is quite popular among Dhaka foodies. There are a handful of bakeries in old Dhaka that only bake Bakarkhani following the age old traditional method. Bakarkhani is a special type of bread baked inside *tandoor* oven. To maintain the age old tradition they never bake any other food products.

Every Bakarkhani bakers knows the legend behind this delicacy. Once upon a time there was a king named Aga Bakir. He fell in love with a beautiful dancing girl called Khani. But another evil king Jainul abducted Khani. Bakir chased Jainul. Seeing no hope Janinul killed Khani. After reaching the spot Aga Bakir saw his beloved dying, seeing which he became almost insane. It was he who named a special type of bread his cook had baked, "Bakarkhani". Respecting this immortal love story, the bakers of old Dhaka are still baking this very special type of crispy bread. Hamza the baker tells us that baking Bakarkhani what his ancestors have been doing. He is maintaining this line and hopes that this is what his children too will do in the future.

Vending Pet

A chattering crowd mobs a cycle van. The owner of the van is Jalil, a peddler selling beautiful birds, rabbits, pet food and cages. He has a variety of pigeons, love birds, some cute rabbits and various types of pet foods. He collects them from the wholesale market in Kamrangir Char and sells it in the residential areas of Dhaka. Most of his customers are children and teenagers. He is rather busy in managing the crowds so that interested buyers can examine his animals without any hassle. He says that selling and maintaining living beings is a difficult job. He needs to feed them regularly to keep them looking good. Business remains good as Mohsin probably is the only person dealing in pets in the Islampur area.



Horse cart, our traditional carrier.

Our Traditional Carrier

It is indeed quite long ago that horse cart of various types and carriages were the only mode of transport in Dhaka. Even 40 or even 50 years ago these carts were visible in all the main streets of Dhaka. But now these traditional horse carriages look as feeble as the horses that draw them. The route of this traditional career is now confined to Gulistan to Sadarghat. But due to its traditional flavour they are frequently used in ceremonial rallies. In Gulistan, we talk to coachman Mohsin. He has two horses named Bahadur (the Hero) and Tufan (the