

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A Mouthful of Happiness

Started in 1939 by Haji Golam Hossain and now run by his grandson Haji Mohammed Shahed, the 70 years old Hajir Biriyani makes their Biryani in a very special way. Unlike others, they do not use butter. Instead they use mustard oil. In my opinion that makes all the difference in the world. I am what you call a Biriyani connoisseur. I have had opportunity to taste Biriyani from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, the Middle East, Iran, Malaysia, Burma and Mauritius. I can testify that Hajir Biriyani ranks in the top among them. Its greatness lies in its simplicity both in preparation and presentation. As an admirer of Hajir Biriyani, I enjoyed reading the article. Maybe *the Star* can run a series on the traditional food items that represent our culture and heritage.

Sofia Khan
DOHS, Dhaka

The State of Education

Many English Medium schools have mushroomed all across the country. Some of them collect donations for admitting children. The tuition fees are also very high. As far as the quality is concerned, there is no regulatory body to monitor and evaluate their performances. That is why, except for a few well-reputed ones, students who attend these so called English medium schools hardly become proficient in the English language. The government must put a limit on how much schools can charge as "donation".

Shafiqul Islam
Sirajganj

Akira Kurosawa

[Re: Remembrance, August 29]. *The Star* deserves my heartfelt thanks for remembering Akira Kurosawa who personified Japanese movies to the world and who grew into one of the most brilliant film directors. Kurosawa stumbled into filmmaking after failing as a painter and became one of the colossal figures in film history— an autocratic perfectionist with a painter's eye for composition, a dancer's sense of movement and a humanist's quiet sensibility. Directors from all over the world spanning generations have acknowledged his enduring influence. Kurosawa's calculated blend of Japanese folklore with Western acting styles and storytelling techniques provided a link between the two worlds, reintroducing Japanese culture to a post-war global audience and leading to an amazingly fertile decade that saw him produce several films that have widely been acclaimed as among the finest ever made, including "Rashomon," "Seven Samurai," "Ikiru" and "Yojimbo." In my humble opinion he is the best film director ever born in the history of cinema.

Shahida Ali
On Email

Gardener Turned Heart Surgeon

I am highly impressed with the way the writer described the life of Hamilton Naki, it really inspired me a lot. Thank you so much for such a well written article.

Sharlin Sanjid
Bangalore, India