



25 YEARS OF EVOLUTION

It is not a very short span of time. 25 years comprises roughly one-third of a person's life. The world 25 years ago was a lot different from what it is today, given the massive leaps we have taken in this space of two and a half decades.

The world has been bound together with a 'web', through which we can talk to our acquaintances over long distances instantaneously or send messages within seconds. Scientists have cloned a sheep. Mankind has successfully landed a rover in an alien world.

And, Pluto is no longer a planet!

25 years is quite a long time indeed. In our everyday lives, what are the changes that have occurred? How have we evolved through this time? What are the major shifts that we have gone through?

AN EVOLVED PALATE

The culinary industry of Dhaka has come a long way. Today, eateries - from lounges to coffee shops to carts - have mushroomed all over the city. And new restaurants continue to open up. Whether you prefer authentic Korean or continental cuisine, or crave a big, fat delicious burger or just a plate of sushi, Dhaka has a plethora of options that delights its dwellers. This was not the case just two decades ago, when there were just a few options of so-called Chinese restaurants that typically served a spicy version of the cuisine.

A lot of factors have contributed to the change. On one hand, Dhaka has become more cosmopolitan, consequently creating a need for different cuisines. On the other, the local demographic has developed a taste for exotic and

authentic foods of different countries, owing mostly to media exposure in the form of cooking shows on television, videos on YouTube and tourism.

While the culinary industry has taken leaps and bounds and has grown to reflect a diverse mix, it has also given up on many simple local delicacies which used to be everyone's favourites in the past. And then, they started to become scarce and in some cases, went extinct.

From the multi-coloured 'shondesh' to the delicious cookie-type 'naan khatai', we have rubbed out many delectable delights from our lives.

The culinary sector has evolved a lot since the 1990s; we've earned a lot, but we've also somehow pushed many treasures to the verge of extinction.

