

# Kacchi Biryani vs Burger

This time, the stakes are higher than a real food fight

TAHSIN ABEDI

There are all kinds of battles – boys vs girls, Barcelona vs Real Madrid, Hillary vs Trump, yet one battle has managed to create a conflict among us Bangladeshis: kacchi biryani vs burgers.

We all know of the legendary Fakruddin's kacchi that even today doesn't fail to make our mouths water. But it seems that the rather newer love for burgers in the city has been dampening kacchi's shine. The younger foodies especially are often seen crowding these aesthetically pleasing outlets as popular hangout spots. So, the question obviously arises: which is better – kacchi biryani or burgers?

Many of the more patriotic would begin by saying that kacchi is a dish that dates back to the Mughal times and is closely linked to the Bengali taste bud, whereas burgers are something foreign that has managed to make a huge impact. Many would even go on to say that a burger is always just a burger, i.e. it's got the same things with a few variations: patty, cheese and mayo inside a bun.

Kacchi biryani, on the other hand, is said to be a carnival of flavours inside your mouth. It is spicy, at times with a hint of sweetness, and even a little tart if you like the *aloo bokhara* that pop up in your serving if you're lucky. Star anise, cashew nuts, raisins and saffron only add to the perfect concoction of spices on a plate. Even with meat so tender and juicy



ILLUSTRATION:  
 KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

that it falls off the bone and perfectly cooked Basmati rice that is al dente, the steaming potatoes from the kacchi often tend to be the favourite amongst people. With winter already here, one cannot wait for the biryani at weddings.

For those more gravitated towards the kacchi, burgers taste bland, missing the oomph factor of spices that we, Bengalis, oh-so-love. Without the right blend of ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise, one could potentially end up with a burger which is indeed dry and lacklustre.

On the other hand, for those craving food on the go that can be eaten while

having fun with friends, a burger is the best option. With so many burger joints opening up in town, one has a myriad of options to choose from. Those who love cheesy burgers crave a patty that is perfectly cooked and packed with cheese that explodes in your mouth the moment you bite into it. It has the potential to get messy, even more than that with kacchi, but is said to taste as if it's the best thing on earth, especially when paired with a side of fries and onion rings. Add a tall glass of cold beverage to make things even better.

Tomatoes, lettuce and onions add an

element of freshness that kacchi woefully lacks. Also, unlike kacchi, there is no such horrific moment where you bite into an *elachi* and feel like your entire life is coming to an end. Even though the taste goes away after a sip of chilled Coke or *borhani*, it is still a hassle burger eaters don't have to face.

So, after witnessing this heated debate, which side are you on: kacchi or burgers?

*Tahsin Abedi is a hungry potato going through an identity crisis. Send her some love and vanilla ice cream at tahsinabedi@gmail.com*

## How to be a decent neighbour

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Dear neighbour,  
 I'm aware that I'm not exactly the ideal housemate. But I'm also not the one hauling around a bulldozer in my room at 2 AM, so I think it's safe to say that I win in comparison. I'd really rather be sleeping right now than teaching you how to be a decent neighbour. However, since I really like living in this house and your actions seem to have the intention of driving me out, I need to vent.

When you were first making a ruckus, dragging around furniture and drilling holes all the way through your walls to my inner ear drums, I assumed you were renovating. It's been two years. What circus is going on over there? Kindly make up your mind where you want to place the chairs instead of dragging them all over the place.

While your regular family squabbles do make up my daily dose of soap opera and helps cut down on cable bills, I'd like to request a change in the time schedule please. I really don't want to be rudely



awoken by the routine Auntie vs Bua feud about who broke the tea cup; or the string of profanities directed to your son for not waking up. News flash, he wasn't the only sleeping. Please keep it down or invest in sound proof walls.

Moreover, I'd like to take this opportunity to appreciate the sweet, melodious

voice that you have. See, I truly do admire your angelic voice and determination of waking up at the crack of dawn to let your melody soar. That being said, I'd appreciate the art much more if it were scheduled at a later time. It's difficult to cherish the harmony at 6 AM when I've barely had two hours of sleep. At that point,

you're a monster screeching inside my head and I can't help but curse you. Sorry not sorry.

Finally, we must address your conspicuous love for *Shutki*, which I obviously do not have an objection against. You can indulge in all the *Shutki* you want, as long as it is processed and cooked outside a 5 kilometre radius of my house. Or the least you could do is give me a period of notice so I can evacuate the premises for the week. I haven't yet found an air freshener that can overpower the pungent stink. I'm doubting such a product exists as this point. So please, sympathise with my nostrils.

See we can surely live in peace if we try. If not, I can arrange blaring boom boxes and late night dance parties just to get back at you. Ball's in your court.

Insincerely,  
 Your neighbour.

*Samin Sabah Islam believes there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com*