

MUSING



PHOTO: COURTESY

After page 16

And unbeknownst to yourself, a love story writes itself.

Real time: the *aloo* turns itself into savoury cotton-candy in your mouth. The taste, you ask? Maybe the Italians would know how to describe it better since they're known to be such romantics; I can only try. It's like the warmest hug one can offer, elevating every sense—perhaps even the sixth one—triggering the salivary glands into overdrive. The *aloo* is a drug; a happy not-so-little pill filled with endorphins, dopamine and serotonin, ready to overflow. It is happiness and love and all good feelings moulded into shape and form that's cooked to nothing less than perfection.

And in that moment of euphoria, your life is complete. You have accomplished everything you've ever dreamt of. Yes, your parents are proud of you.

Nothing compares to this feeling. You are a champion at life.

Everything you eat goes to your stomach but the *biriyani er aloo* goes straight for the heart. It calms you down when you need to, it pushes away every ill thought from your brain, and it embodies the "comfort" of comfort food. It listens silently, and in return, speaks volumes.

To your fingers, it is a stress ball. To your mouth, it is the pacifier. To your body, it is a five-star spa treatment.

I don't quite know when my love for this *aloo* came into being, but I am glad it did. It makes me happy, with "happy" being an understatement of my true feelings. What a great conversation starter it is! Who knew a common component of a wedding dish is *actually* the hero of the entire occasion.

As we roll into winter and the wedding season, nothing excites me more than the prospect of downing as

many *aloo* as I can. Because clearly, who remembers whose wedding it was in what community centre? Don't ask for "blessings only" in gold Monotype Corsiva text. Tell me if there's going to be *kacchi biriyani* in the menu and I will seriously consider taking time out of my busy schedule to make a short trip across town.

It's safe to say that you will not remember who got married, which auntie wore what saree, or how many selfies you took 0.001 seconds after the meal. But you will not forget the delicious *biriyani er aloo*.

So, if you'll excuse me now, my colleagues have conceded defeat to their craving and ordered in some quality *kacchi biriyani*. I must go find my true love.

Kazi Akib Bin Asad is Sub-Editor of SHOUT, The Daily Star. Find him collect puns from around the world at [instagram.com/akibasad](https://www.instagram.com/akibasad)

ABOUT TOWN



CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AT THE COURTYARD BAZAAR

Organiser: The Courtyard Bazaar
Venue: The Courtyard Bazaar, House 21, Road 112, Gulshan-2
Date: December 22
Time: 11 am – 5.30 pm



AYUSH-NAKSHA BIYE UTSHOB

Organiser: Lever Ayush Bangladesh and Prothom Alo
Venue: Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, Karwan Bazar
Date: December 20-21
Time: 10 am



CHARUKOLA Poush MELA

Organiser: Charukola
Venue: MIDAS Centre (11th Floor), Plot-05, Road-16 (Old-27), Dhanmondi
Date: December 21-22
Time: 10 am – 1 pm

COMIC STRIP

