

The Food Ranger's gastronomic adventures in Dhaka

|| M H HAIDER ||



DHAKA VIBE

Earlier this year, globally renowned vlogger Trevor James aka The Food Ranger visited Dhaka, exploring the city's culinary gems. To no one's surprise, videos featuring his food outings in Dhaka took social media by storm. After all, Trevor and his videos are immensely popular -- having travelled and filmed gastronomic adventures in many parts of the globe. In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the Canadian globetrotter and food connoisseur currently based in China, spoke about his Bangladesh trip and how he now reflects back on Dhaka.

What were your expectations when you were planning the Dhaka trip?

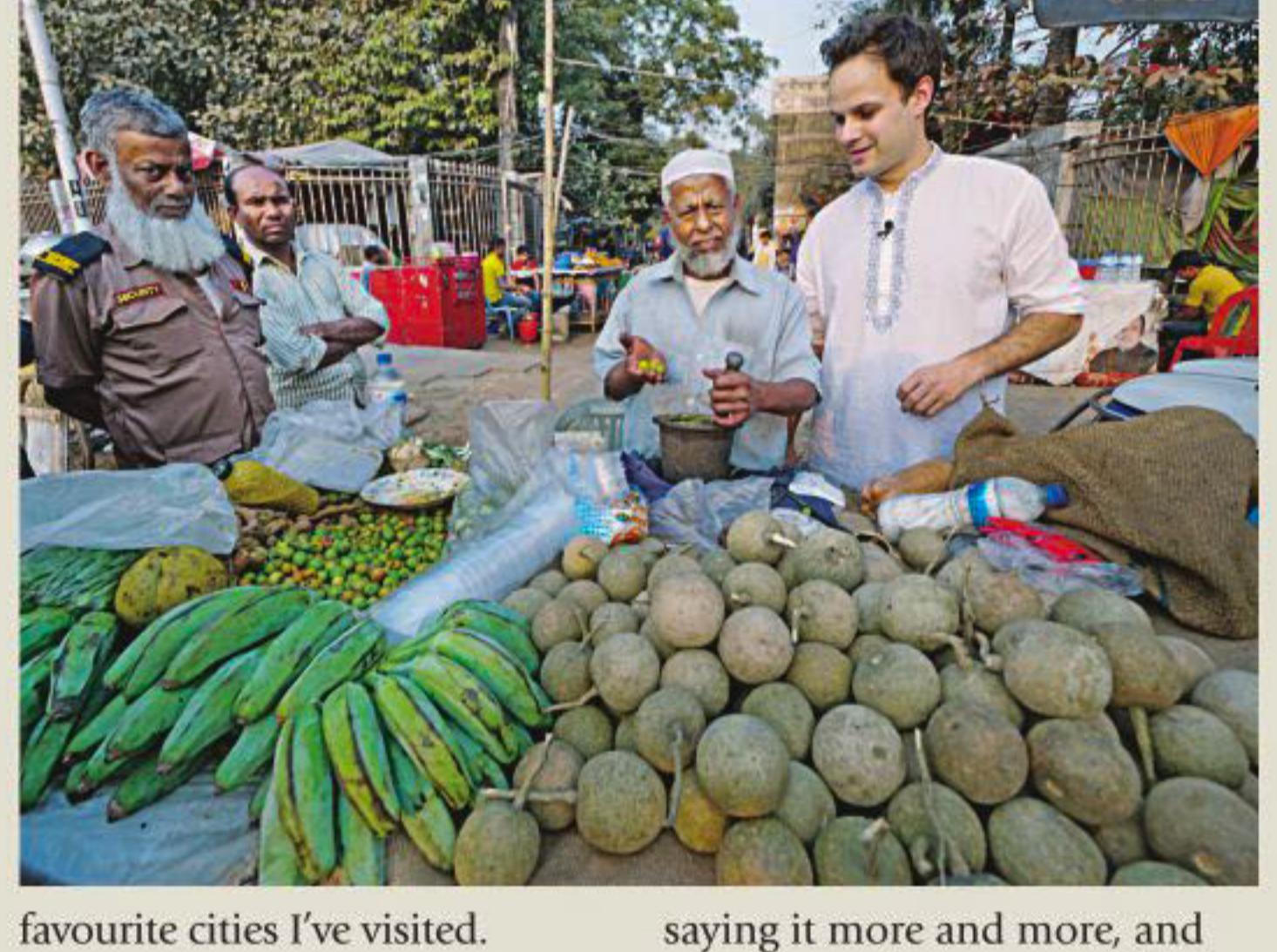
TREVOR: Before landing in Dhaka, I wasn't sure what to expect. I was curious about Dhaka and Bangladesh and didn't really know what it would be like. I also wasn't too sure about what the food would be like but was looking forward to tasting the local cuisine.

Before arriving, to be honest, I didn't really feel it would be much different from other countries in the region. After exploring the streets and trying out food at local restaurants, I was completely blown away!

Having tasted food in so many cities, where do you put Dhaka on the culinary map? What's unique about this city?

TREVOR: To me, it was all about the incredible variety of spices and the vast array of fish dishes to try, and of course the flavour of mustard! After having the bharta and fish dishes, I was taken aback by the intense and delightful flavours. Food-wise, Dhaka is definitely one of the

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favourite cities I've visited.

If you have to pick just one dish from Dhaka, what would that be?

TREVOR: That's a tough call! But trying out bharta for the first time at Nirob Hotel was an unforgettable experience. It made me realise how incredibly complex and delicious food in Dhaka is.

In the videos you shot in Dhaka, you're frequently heard referring to people as "Mama" ... how did that come about?

TREVOR: My friend Shimon, who was showing us around Dhaka, told me I could respond to people with "thank you, mama". I tried it a few times and found that everyone reacted in a very positive way. So, I kept

saying it more and more, and pretty soon it was part of all the videos we filmed!

What kind of vibe did you get from Dhaka while filming? How do you, and your wife and videographer Ting, reflect upon the trip?

TREVOR: I found Dhaka to be a really cool city -- modern in certain areas and traditional in others. We loved exploring the bustling back alleys of Puran Dhaka as well as the modern areas of Gulshan and checked out some of the trendy restaurants there too.

There were some areas that were so busy and crowded... for me that's what made it so exciting because I love to capture lots of energy and

action on camera.

We thoroughly enjoyed our rickshaw ride around Puran Dhaka. It was almost relaxing in a way to sit down, elevated above the foot traffic, watching the street scene and looking out for delicious food to try.

Moreover, we had no idea that we would be barely asked to pay for things. We would insist on paying, but to no avail.

Canadians are known to be polite, but I had no idea hospitality like what we experienced in Dhaka, exists.

My wife Ting fell in love with Bangladesh too. She was unsure about what to expect. Your country may not be that prominent on the tourism trail at the moment, but after leaving the airport and walking around, she kept saying how cool Bangladesh is and how safe she felt.

You also visited Chattogram. What was the culinary experience like in the port city?

TREVOR: The mezban beef was unreal! The huge pots of beef curry over wood fire were a sight to behold!

Next time we come back, we want to visit Sylhet and also go down to Mawa Ghat to try ilish fried in mustard oil. We fell in love with Bangladesh and can't wait to revisit!

Follow The Food Ranger's journey at www.thefoodranger.com.

PHOTO OF THE DAY

AHBAAR MOHAMMAD



Morris Garages (MG), the British car manufacturer with well over a 100 years of legacy behind the name, launched its operations in Bangladesh with the ZS crossover SUV at the Radisson Blu Water Garden hotel on Thursday.

Dengue warning issued 13 years ago fell on deaf ears

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A public health policy researcher had warned 13 years back that dengue could take an epidemic form if the city authorities fail to control the breeding of Aedes mosquitoes.

Today, that apprehension has turned out to be well-founded. More than 71,962 people have been infected with the viral fever and at least 128 have died, according to unofficial data, although the government data is much lower.

A research styled "Dengue: An epidemic is largely a failure in public health administration! The role of Dhaka City Corporation, DCC of Bangladesh" was published in 2006 in World Health and Population Journal.

Since the research was published, Dhaka City Corporation was split into two to provide better civic services, but not much has changed when it comes to dengue.

The recommendations made by the researcher are yet to be implemented.

"If the city corporation had implemented those recommendations back in the day, the current scenario would not have been this grim," Shakeel Mahmood, currently a doctoral student on public health policy at the University of Newcastle, Australia and author of the study, told The Daily Star recently.

"This menace has already created much trouble, along with loss of life, and

In 1965, dengue was detected as "Dhaka Fever" and in 1999, 13.7 percent children were found infected with the dengue virus in a serological survey at Chittagong Medical College.

will cause more damage if not prevented soon. The negligence of city corporation in controlling the breeding and spreading of Aedes mosquitoes is one of the major causes behind it," the report concludes.

The report said dengue is not new in Bangladesh.

In 1965, dengue was detected as "Dhaka Fever" and in 1999, 13.7 percent children were found infected with the dengue virus in a serological survey at Chittagong Medical College.

The study made a nine-point recommendation, including destruction of artificial containers, source eradication, coordinated community effort, awareness campaigns and change of school dress code as children are vulnerable.

"It becomes clear that dengue is

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DHAKA TODAY

FESTIVAL

Jamdani Fest
Venue: Bengal Shilpalay, Dhammondi
Time: 12pm

EXPOSITION

Education USA South Asia Tour
Organiser: Education USA
Venue: Hotel Radisson Blue
Time: 2pm

TRAINING

Effective Social Media Campaign for Female Entrepreneurs
Venue: EMK Center
Time: 10am

Salon employee beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

An employee of a men's salon was beaten to death, allegedly by his colleagues, at Jorpurukur in Gazipur town on Thursday.

The deceased was identified as Aseud Rony, 35, hailing from Naogaon district. Police arrested five persons that night in connection with the murder. They were identified as Al-Amin, 19; Rimon, 20; Laizu, 25; Rimon, 18, and Azizur, 25. All five worked with

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Law enforcers check licences and other relevant documents of vehicles on Mirpur Road, as part of their effort to bring discipline in traffic management. The photo was taken near Dhaka College yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

আজ শনিবার আবুল মনসুর আহমদের ১২১তম জন্মবার্ষিকী ও প্রবন্ধ প্রতিযোগিতার পুরস্কার প্রদান

বিকাল ৪টা, ৭ সেপ্টেম্বর ২০১৯।

অধ্যাপক মুজাফফর আহমদ চৌধুরী মিলনায়তন, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

অনুষ্ঠানে সবাইকে আমন্ত্রণ



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অধ্যাপক মাহবুব মুশিদ, অধ্যাপক মো. চেঙ্গী খান, সাংবাদিক কাজল রশীদ শাহীন

সভাপতি জাতীয় অধ্যাপক আনন্দজ্ঞামান



আয়োজক
অবুল মনসুর আহমদ
স্কুল পরিদর্শক