



A taste of the world at Moghbazar

Dhaka's newest culinary hangout

RBR

The latest go-to place in Dhaka is "At the Table", a food court at the crossroads of Moghbazar Mor and Eskaton, towards Bangla Motor. This intersection is one of the most chaotic and busiest in the city, making it an unlikely place for an upmarket food court.

Yet the gamble, that is opting for a swanky food court in that location, worked well. The area has always been a neighbourhood for the culturally inclined middle-income population, for whom a trip to Gulshan, Banani or even Dhanmondi is too much of a traffic hassle to brave.

The food court, which started operations in February 2025, has already gained a loyal following. It offers a good food option, a luxurious ambience, and an accessible approach, despite heavy traffic. The young crowd of Bailey Road and genteel Eskaton has given this food plaza the much-needed business traction.

Dhaka's eating out once upon a time meant only the 4 o'clock cha-shingaras or the occasional Chinese dinners. And today, the city's palate has evolved so much that it is regarded as one of the up and coming multi-cultural cuisine hubs. And food halls like these only add to the diverse options.

At the Table is an indoor plaza with a lofty second floor and adjoining outdoor seating options. The food counters offer Japanese, Mexican, Middle Eastern,



PHOTO: STAR

Indian, and popular local menus, as well as fusion selections. Besides the usual favourites like nachos, burgers, pizzas, and ice-cream, this venue has an interesting tea counter that sells Bangkok-style Thai Cha or tea.

Cha Thai & Ta is a cute tea place that brings you the famous Thai tea lattes, Matcha lattes, along with the popular Thai sweet and savoury toast snacks. Deshi tea menu, with tandoori cha, is also on offer. Run by a charming couple, where the lady is of Thai origin and the man has his roots in Bangladesh; their pairing has given the stall its distinctive character, where you get popular Thai and deshi tea menu.

Arshan Sufi, a teenager who lives right around the corner, vouches for their iced lattes, "The chilled, rich creaminess, and a unique sweetness of their Matcha latte is addictive, it gives me the much-needed sugar rush after classes." His mother prefers the refreshing Jasmine Honey and Lemon Tea without sugar though. "It is our mother-son regular place to wind down after the day's work," he says.

"A Thai cha is blending a sweet and spicy deliciousness that is served hot or cold. A classic and popular

choice in the Thai tea scene is the ChaTraMue brand's black tea. The lattes are made with loose tea steeped in cinnamon, ginger, lemongrass, star anise, cardamom, and condensed or evaporated milk and served iced or hot. This tea has its signature vibrant orange hue, exactly like Thai street drink," says the couple.

Another recent food court addition that is making waves is the Chef's Table on the 5th floor of Centrepoint, near Dhaka Airport in Uttara. Unlike the other congested food halls, the one at Centrepoint is spacious, with multiple food kiosks and a spacious seating configuration.

Food courts in the city are aplenty, but keeping it spic and span, and maintaining cleanliness raises questions. However, both these new additions stand out as one of the finest food courts in Dhaka, ideal for hosting gatherings of family and friends, and the fun kids' zone makes it a great place to host play dates or birthday parties. They also have roomy parking facilities.

As Dhaka's culinary landscape continues to evolve, food courts like At the Table and Chef's Table are redefining how the city eats out — making quality food, comfort, and a bit of flair more accessible to everyday diners.



Fresh caretaker models on the table now

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scheduled for further deliberation in the coming days, Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, told The Daily Star.

He added that discussions on the caretaker model will continue tomorrow (July 15), and expressed hope that a draft of the national charter will be ready by the end of the month.

In the first round of talks, almost all political parties agreed to revive the caretaker government system.

The non-partisan caretaker system was introduced in 1990 after dictator HMErshad's fall, with then chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed overseeing a neutral transition. Though informal at the time, the system ensured a free and fair election in 1991.

Political tensions, however, rose after the opposition boycotted the controversial February 1996 election, ultimately leading to the 13th amendment, which formalised the caretaker system.

In 2006, a dispute over who would head the interim government saw then-president Iajuddin Ahmed assume the additional role of chief adviser. This triggered a crisis that led to a military-backed caretaker government in 2007-08.

The Awami League abolished the system in 2011 through the 15th amendment.

In December last year, about five months after the ouster of the AL regime, the High Court annulled part of the 15th amendment that had scrapped the caretaker system.

COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

According to the commission's new proposal, a 13-member Chief Adviser Search Committee will be formed 30 days before the end of the parliament's term.

It will include the prime minister, treasury bench leader, or the leader of the ruling party; the opposition leader; the speaker and deputy speaker of the lower house (the latter from the opposition); the deputy leader or chief whip of the lower house; one representative from the third-largest party in the lower house;

the speaker and deputy speaker of the upper house; the leader of the largest party and the leader of a minority party in the upper house; one member of the upper house nominated by the president; and a representative from the third-largest party in that chamber.

Within 48 hours of its formation, the committee will convene to select the chief adviser, who will serve for 90 to 120 days following the dissolution of parliament.

The proposal adds that if this process fails, the ruling coalition and the main opposition will each propose five eligible candidates, while other parties represented in both chambers will jointly propose four more.

The search committee will then hold a hearing in the lower house within five days, with upper house members present, to review all 14 nominees.

After the hearing, the ruling and opposition blocs will each select one candidate from the other's list. They will also choose one nominee from the smaller parties' list. Additionally, the third-largest party will select one from the 10 candidates proposed by the ruling and opposition parties. The nominee receiving the highest number of selections will be appointed chief adviser.

If no consensus emerges, the committee will vote using a ranked-choice system, with the president appointing the candidate based on the result. The selected chief adviser may then appoint up to 15 advisers.

The commission clarified that if the upper house is not yet formed, the search committee will be reduced to seven members from the lower house only. The same selection process will apply.

BNP'S PROPOSAL

The BNP's proposal emphasised multiparty consultation, limits on presidential authority, and the possible revival of the 13th amendment to the constitution, said Standing Committee Member Salahuddin Ahmed at the meeting.

It stated that the president would appoint the chief adviser from among

citizens eligible under article 58(Ga), following consultations with all major political parties in parliament.

The party also proposed forming a nomination committee chaired by the president, which would include the prime minister, the opposition leader, the speaker of the lower house, and the deputy speaker from the opposition. In this setup, the president would not have voting rights in the selection process.

An alternative committee structure was also proposed, comprising the prime minister, the opposition leader, the speaker and deputy speaker of the lower house, and one representative from the third-largest party.

In this version, the president would cast a tie-breaking vote if needed.

A third proposed format offered broader representation: in addition to the prime minister, opposition leader, and speaker, one representative from each of the opposition parties — excluding the largest — that secured at least five percent of the national vote would be included. The president would retain voting rights in this format as well.

If none of these approaches yield consensus, the BNP proposed reverting to the caretaker government model introduced under the 13th amendment.

In such a case, the nomination committee could propose a retired chief justice, provided the individual is under the age of 75.

As a final fallback, the BNP suggested that the president himself assume the role of chief adviser.

JAMAAT'S PROPOSAL

Nayeb-e-Ameer of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Syed Abdullah Muhammad Taher said his party verbally proposed a new process for selecting the caretaker chief.

It moved away from relying on the senior-most retired chief justice or involving the president directly. Instead, Jamaat recommended forming a 12-member bipartisan search committee composed entirely of elected representatives.

This committee would include five members from the ruling party, five

from the main opposition, and two from smaller parties or independents.

The committee would publicly call for nominations, conduct interviews, and follow a formal selection process to recommend a candidate for chief adviser.

Taher added that Jamaat also floated an informal alternative: a three-member committee comprising the sitting prime minister, the opposition leader, and the chief justice. However, he clarified that this idea has not been formally submitted.

CONSENSUS ON CJ PICK, EMERGENCY

During yesterday's talks, the parties reached consensus on the appointment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court, as well as safeguards against the misuse of emergency powers.

They agreed that the most senior judge of the Appellate Division, based on service length, would be appointed as the next chief justice, unless a political party pledges in its manifesto to choose one of the top two senior judges and secures a mandate to do so.

The parties also decided to amend article 141 of the constitution to prevent the political misuse of emergency declarations.

As per the proposed revision to article 141A(1), the president may declare a state of emergency for a period not exceeding 90 days if convinced that Bangladesh's security or economic stability is threatened by war, external aggression, or natural calamity.

However, prior written approval from the cabinet, in the presence of the opposition leader, would be required.

Currently, the constitution allows emergency declarations for up to 120 days with only the prime minister's signature.

To ensure protection of fundamental rights during emergencies, the proposed amendment to article 47(3) ensures that no citizen's right to life, or protection from torture or from cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, may be suspended or violated.

a business in Pallabi reportedly for the owner's refusal to pay Tk 5 crore extortion. The same day, a former Jubo Dal leader was killed in Khulna. He was shot and his tendons were severed. In Chandpur, a 75-year-old mosque Khatib was hacked with a machete after Juma prayers.

The home adviser yesterday said the government took the brutal murder in Old Dhaka with "utmost seriousness". Out of the 19 FIR named accused, seven have already been detained.

If more people are found involved during the investigation, they will also be brought under the law, he said.

"No one is being spared on the basis of political or other identity and will not be spared in the future. The police will not spare any criminal," he added.

The home adviser also said a thorough investigation will be carried out to determine whether there was any negligence or leniency on the part of the administration or law enforcement agencies in the incident.

SOHAG MURDER

Police identify 3 suspects from CCTV footage

Seven arrested so far

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have identified three men in the CCTV footage of the brutal killing of scrap trader Lal Chand alias Sohag with concrete chunks in Old Dhaka.

One has been arrested and two others are on the run, an official of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Lalbagh Division told The Daily Star yesterday.

In a further development, law enforcers held two more suspects, Sajib Bepari, 27, and Rajib Bepari, 25, from Netrakona early yesterday.

So far, seven people have been detained in connection with the murder, said Jasim Uddin, deputy commissioner of Lalbagh Division Police.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed two arrestees, Mohammad Alamgir and Monir alias "Chhoto" Monir, on a four-day remand.

Of them, Monir is seen beating Sohag with concrete chunks in the footage, according to investigators.

The killing took place in broad daylight on Wednesday, when Sohag was forcibly dragged out of his shop in Old Dhaka and beaten to death with concrete blocks near the gate of Mitford Hospital.

Sohag's sister filed a murder case against 19 people with Kotwali Police Station. Police collected surveillance footage from the area and launched drives, leading to multiple arrests.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the government was taking the murder with utmost seriousness. Out of the accused, seven have already been detained.

If more are found involved during investigation, they will also be brought under the law, he said.

"No one is being or will be spared on the basis of political or any other identity," he told reporters at the Secretariat.

The adviser said a thorough investigation would be carried out to determine whether there was any negligence on the part of the administration or law enforcement agencies in the incident.

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Hundreds of students pour out from Dhaka University dormitories around 11:00pm on July 14, 2024, to protest a "disparaging comment" by then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina regarding quotas in government jobs.

FILE PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM's remark ignites

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Similar protests erupted across other public universities, including Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, and Comilla University. Around 11:00pm, DU students gathered on campuses and took out processions, chanting: "Tumi ke? Ami ke? Razakar, Razakar! [Who are you? Who am I? Razakar, Razakar!]"

Earlier in the day, in response to a journalist's question, Hasina had remarked, "Why do they have so much resentment towards the freedom fighters? If the grandchildren of the freedom fighters don't get quota benefits, should the grandchildren of Razakars get the benefit?"

At Dhaka University, students marched from various halls and converged in front of the Raju Bhaskarjo. Among the participating protesters were students from Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, Shamsun Nahar Hall, and Rukayyah Hall. They chanted: "Chaita gelam odhikar, hoye gelam Razakar" [Asked for rights and became a Razakar].

Meanwhile, activists of the now-banned Chhatra League, some wielding sticks, gathered at various points across the campus, including Madhur Canteen and the Shabbagh and Sheraton intersections. Some protesters were also seen carrying sticks.

Police maintained a strong presence in and around Shabbagh, Chankharpool, and Nilkhet.

The protesting students began dispersing around 1:45am, and by 2:30am, most had returned to their halls.

At Chittagong University, students also took to the streets, where they came under attack from Chhatra

League leaders and activists. Four to five students sustained injuries. Later, Chhatra League activists gathered at the Zero Point area, chanting slogans in support of the ruling party.

In Rajshahi University, several hundred students held a procession and blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway shortly after midnight. At Jagannath University, protesters were seen chanting slogans inside the campus around 11:40pm.

MARCH TO BANGABHABAN

Earlier in the day, thousands of students took part in a pre-announced march from Dhaka University to the Bangabhaban, demanding that the president convene an emergency parliamentary session within 24 hours to reform the quota system in public service. They warned of launching an all-out movement if the demand was not met.

Defying police obstruction, the protesters marched towards the presidential residence. Around 2:40pm, a 12-member delegation submitted a memorandum to President Mohammad Shahabuddin.

In the memorandum, the students demanded a law to rationally reform the quota system while retaining five percent quotas for underprivileged communities and persons with special needs.

When the procession returned from Bangabhaban and reached the Gulistan intersection around 3:15pm, Nahid Islam, one of the organisers of the quota reform movement, announced, "The boycott of classes and exams will continue until our demand is met."

Elsewhere in the country, students in Chattogram, Rajshahi, Cumilla, Narayanganj, and Patuakhali submitted memorandums to their respective deputy commissioners to be forwarded to the president, echoing the same demands for quota reform.

Waiter killed for 'delay in serving tea'

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The youth returned shortly afterward with several others and stabbed Roman in the restaurant, OC Ziaul said.

Locals rushed Roman to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead, he said.

Police were conducting a drive to

apprehend the other suspects, he added.

Niru Miah, owner of the restaurant, said, "We settled the issue after the youth had an altercation with Roman over a delay in serving tea. But the youth returned with others and stabbed Roman."

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agencies, to curb this," he said.

Talking to reporters at the Secretariat, the home adviser said the law enforcement agencies were regularly conducting drives against all forms of criminal activities, including murder, theft, robbery, extortion, mugging, terrorism, abduction, violence against women, mob violence, and drug trafficking.

Considering the situation, the government would launch special or combing operations to arrest identified criminals and terrorists, he said.

Asked when the operation would begin, Jahangir replied, "From now on."

Officials at the Police Headquarters said the home adviser's announcement itself is the directive for the field level officials. The police have also issued an official order to carry out the drives.

Speaking to The Daily Star, a superintendent of police in a district under the Chattogram Division said they already instructed field-level officials to intensify drives, particularly to arrest extortionists, drug dealers, and muggers.

"We have also directed them not to consider the political affiliations of any suspect," he added.

In February, the government launched "Operation Devil Hunt", a drive of the joint forces, to maintain law and order across the country following the attack on "students and common people" in Gazipur.

With an average of 1,330 arrests made daily at the time, most of those arrestees were reportedly affiliated with the Awami League.

Another wave of arrest was made after former president Abdul Hamid left the country on May 18, sparking protests from various political groups.

The highest number of arrests in a day, 2,271, was on May 10, just two days after his departure.

According to sources at the Police Headquarters, 1,26,687 people have been arrested so far since the special nationwide drive began on April 19. In total, around 4.20 lakh people have been arrested since the interim government assumed office in August last year.

Most of the arrestees were later

granted bail and released from jail, officials said.

Prison sources said around 75,000 accused or convicted individuals are currently staying in prisons across the country.

Data from the Police Headquarters presents a grim picture of violent crimes, including murder, mugging, robbery, extortion, and mob violence, in the first six months of 2025.

PHQ data show 1,336 cases of dacoity and robbery, and 1,930 murders were recorded in this period.

Mob attacks claimed 89 lives, including 45 in Dhaka, according to Ain o Salish Kendra.

Many of these incidents were caught on camera and widely shared on social media, fueling fear and insecurity among the public.

In Dhaka's Mitford area on July 9, scrap metal trader Lal Chand alias Sohag was brutally killed in broad daylight. A video of the assault went viral, drawing heavy criticism over the lack of intervention.

On Friday, armed men attacked