



In the heart of chaos, I FIND DHAKA'S FLAVOUR

RBR

Do you know why I will always be true to Dhaka? I admit that the metropolis is chaotic, but I do enjoy the fuss, the cacophony, and the colours in the lanes and by-lanes of this ever-changing city. Yet, it's the food scene that I love most. I believe I know the town well enough, but every now and then, I stumble upon a hidden gem: a food corner that most people do not know of.

Tiffin Box, right next to the Gulshan 2 circle, is one such eatery.

The setting looks like an old, worn-out cafeteria. With chairs and tables set in rows, it seems a little messy and a little stuffy. The ambience is almost like Madhur Canteen at the Dhaka University campus, and a tea boy is seen running with cups of their special tea, offering the menu card with a smile.

There were a few items that brought back cherished memories, like the Patenga pijayu, which are tiny pops of deep-fried lentil batter spiced up with onions and chilli. It instantly reminded me of the years I had spent in Chattogram in the mid-



PHOTO: STAR

eighties. Back then, Patenga Beach was our regular spot to unwind, and a pack of pijayu was a must.

The Chandni Chawk lassi, yet another item on the menu, made me cheerful. Whenever my cousins and I went shopping in this shopping district of Dhaka, the lassi and the hot

jilapi were a must.

At Tiffin Box, the food is decent, and besides the one I have already talked about, their chicken cheese Mughlai, vitamin C drink with grated ginger, and shredded beef (jhura mangsho khichuri) deserve special mention.

I honestly think it is the fun names of their food that customers like the most. "Kolijar tukra shingara" and

"stadium jhalmuri" add a humorous note to the delicious foods that are served.

From Gulshan, I will next take you straight to a by-lane in Mohakhali, opposite the old Brac University premises. Here you find Durbin Bangla, a recently opened Bangla cuisine restaurant. The ambience, minimal with modern imitations, gives a retro vibe that creates a nostalgic feel. I particularly love their hanging lights, which are, in fact, upcycled tea kettles!

Durbin Bangla serves breakfast, lunch, tea, snacks, and dinner. Their early mornings witness a long waiting queue for the mutton paya, the ghee malai suji, and the paper-thin rumali roti.

As they themselves say, Durbin Bangla's food items are not just a menu. It's a map of Bengal, drawn in flavours – from "makkhon chicken soup" to "rupchandar rong", "shokal belar daal" to "shutkir gopon bhalobasha", "gorom dhua-utha bhaat" to "laal jhaal beel" and "roshun bhorta".

Be it a lazy morning, a scorching midday, a restless evening, or a humid night, food is always on our minds. However, we Dhakaites are a busy lot. How we manage to find moments that mix nostalgia with flavour is a small mystery. But the next time you eat out, try these places. Chances are, you will not be disappointed.

Govt issues ordinances to punish errant polls officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government last night issued Election Officer (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, to ensure punishment of election officials found negligent on duty or involved in irregularities during elections.

It also promulgated the Election Commission Secretariat (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, which includes provisions for forming an Election Commission service to appoint its own officials.

The Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry published gazettes on both ordinances with immediate effect.

The ordinance expands the definition of election officials to include those involved in conducting polls, such as members of law enforcement agencies and others engaged in election duties.

The drafts of the ordinances were approved by the advisory council on September 18.

According to the ordinances, the EC's authority will prevail over the government in case of disagreements over the punishment of errant officials.

Failure or refusal by any election official to comply with an election-related order or instruction will be considered misconduct and treated as a punishable offence.

Turkish deputy foreign minister arrives today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister A Beris Ekinci arrives in Dhaka today for a two-day visit as the two countries aim to deepen cooperation in the areas of trade, defence and political relations.

Ekinci will lead Turkiye in the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) tomorrow, while Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam will lead Bangladesh, said foreign ministry officials. The last FOC was held in 2019.

During the FOC tomorrow, discussions will focus on boosting trade and investment, defence cooperation and political relations.



A Beris Ekinci

Parties agree to referendum on July Charter

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represent the entire population. If we can seek approval from the people, then that will be the final opinion on implementing the July Charter," he said.

He clarified that no constitutional amendment is needed for holding a referendum. "The fascist Awami League government had removed the referendum provision under article 142, but a High Court verdict has reinstated it. There is no clause preventing a referendum. Therefore, an ordinance can authorise the Election Commission to hold it on a separate ballot alongside the parliamentary election."

Asked whether MPs in the next

parliament who oppose the July Charter would be obliged to accept the public verdict, he said, "All Members of Parliament will be bound to accept it. When the people say, 'Yes,' parliament and its members must accept it."

He also noted that the constitution does not even allow any court to question parliament's proceedings.

On notes of dissent attached to specific reform clauses of the charter, Salahuddin said, "The charter will be drafted, signed, and endorsed by all as a declaration, published online and included in party manifestos."

"People will know what is in the July Charter. Those who receive the mandate can act according to their

notes of dissent."

The BNP had initially insisted that constitutional reforms could only be made through the next parliament and supported seeking the Supreme Court's opinion on whether any other path was possible.

The Jamaat said the referendum should be held before the polls, preferably in November or December, to lend "strong legitimacy" to the charter.

Jamaat's Assistant Secretary General Hamidur Rahman Azad added his party would "accept the people's verdict regardless of the outcome."

The NCP has yet to say whether it wants the referendum held before

the polls or on election day. Its joint convener, Sarwar Tusher, said most parties now agree that the charter must first be "legally ensured."

He reiterated that the next parliament should serve a dual role – both legislative and constitutional – since reforms such as the prime minister's term limit, formation of an upper house, and High Court's decentralisation require more than simple amendments.

The NCP supports implementing the charter through a Constituent Assembly, arguing that the next parliament could serve as a Constituent Assembly along with a regular legislature.

AFP, Chicago

US President Donald Trump authorized deployment of troops to Chicago after a federal agent shot an allegedly armed motorist there on Saturday, while a judge blocked the Republican leader's attempt to send the military into Portland, another Democratic-run city.

The escalating crisis across the country pits Trump's increasingly militarized anti-crime and migration crackdown against opposition Democrats who accuse him of an authoritarian power grab.

"President Trump has authorized 300 national guardsmen to protect federal officers and assets" in Chicago, White House spokeswoman Abigail Jackson said in a statement, after weeks of the Republican threats to send troops to the Midwestern city over the wishes of local leaders.

"President Trump will not turn a blind eye to the lawlessness plaguing American cities."

Illinois Senator Dick Durbin called the move a "shameful chapter in our nation's history," adding that the "President is not intent on fighting crime. He is intent on spreading fear."

Chicago and Portland are the latest flashpoints in the Trump administration's rollout of raids, following the deployment of troops to Los Angeles and Washington.

The raids have seen groups of masked, armed men in unmarked cars and armored vehicles target residential neighborhoods and businesses, sparking protests.

Trump has repeatedly called Portland "war-ravaged" and riddled

with violent crime, but in Saturday's court order, US District Judge Karin Immergut wrote "the President's determination was simply untethered to the facts."

Although the city has seen scattered attacks on federal officers and property, the Trump administration failed to demonstrate "that those episodes of violence were part of an organized attempt to overthrow the government as a whole," Immergut wrote in granting a temporary restraining order.

Protests in Portland did not pose a "danger of rebellion" and "regular law enforcement forces" could handle such incidents, Immergut said.

Oregon Senator Ron Wyden applauded the order, saying the "victory supports what Oregonians already know: we don't need or want Donald Trump to provoke violence by deploying federal troops in our state."

White House Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller wrote on social media that the judge's order was "legal insurrection" and accused local leaders in Oregon of conducting an "organized terrorist attack on the federal government."

Earlier Saturday, a federal officer in Chicago shot a motorist after law enforcement agents were "boxed in by 10 cars," the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

"Agents were unable to move their vehicles and exited the car. One of the drivers who rammed the law enforcement vehicle was armed with a semi-automatic weapon," DHS assistant secretary Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement.

Trump authorises troops to Chicago

Diplomacy gathers pace amid threats, strikes

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withdrawal – remain unresolved. Doubts also persist over the prospect of a Palestinian state, which Netanyahu has unequivocally said he would never permit.

The war in Gaza has "not yet" ended, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said yesterday, describing the release of the hostages held by Hamas as the first phase, while details on what happens after that still need to be worked out.

He told NBC's Meet the Press that Hamas had "basically" agreed to Trump's proposal and the framework for releasing the hostages, while meetings were underway to coordinate the logistics of that.

"They have also agreed, in principle and generalities, to enter into this idea about what's going to happen afterwards," he said. "A lot of details are going to have to be worked out there."

Speaking later to Fox News yesterday, Rubio said that nothing was certain.

"No one can tell you it's a 100 percent guarantee," he said.

He described the second phase of the long-term future of Gaza as "even harder."

"What happens after Israel pulls back to the yellow line, and potentially beyond that, as this thing develops? How do you create this Palestinian technocratic leadership that's not Hamas?" Rubio said. "How do you disarm any sort of terrorist groups that are going to be building tunnels and conducting attacks against Israel? How do you get them to demobilise?"

"All that work, that's going to be hard, but that's critical, because without that, you're not going to have lasting peace," he added.

However, Rubio urged Israel to stop bombing Gaza ahead of the discussions in Egypt.

"You can't release hostages in the middle of strikes, so the strikes will have to stop," Rubio told CBS News talk show "Face the Nation".

"There can't be a war going on in the middle of it."

Negotiators are due to gather in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm El Sheikh, with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu expressing hope that the hostages could be released within days.

An Israeli government spokesperson said the country's delegation would be leaving yesterday evening.

Cairo confirmed it would be hosting a delegation from Hamas for talks on "the ground conditions and details of the exchange of all Israeli detainees and Palestinian prisoners".

The White House said Trump had also sent two envoys to Egypt – his son-in-law Jared Kushner and Middle East negotiator Steve Witkoff.

On Saturday, Netanyahu vowed to disarm Hamas, either through the peace plan proposed by Trump or by military means.

Hamas and other Palestinian groups seized 251 hostages during their October 7 attack, 47 of whom are still in Gaza. Of those, the Israeli military says 25 are dead.

According to Trump's plan, in return for the hostages, Israel is expected to release 250 Palestinian prisoners with life sentences and more than 1,700 detainees from the Gaza Strip who were arrested after the war began.

But Trump has warned he will "not tolerate delay" from Hamas, urging the group to move quickly towards a deal "or else all bets will be off".

On Saturday, the president said that Israel agreed to the initial withdrawal line outlined in his proposed ceasefire plan.

In a post on social media, he said the administration is now waiting for confirmation from Hamas. If Hamas agrees, Trump said, a ceasefire would be "immediately effective" and a hostage and prisoner exchange would begin.

Trump said on Friday he believed Hamas had shown it was "ready for a lasting PEACE" and he called on Netanyahu's government to halt airstrikes in Gaza.

However, Israel has continued to carry out strikes on Gaza.

AFPTV footage showed thick smoke billowing over the skyline over the coastal territory yesterday.

Gaza's civil defence agency, a rescue force operating under Hamas authority, said Israeli strikes killed at least 19 people in Gaza yesterday, after several attacks through the night. Israel killed 67 Palestinians on Saturday.

"There has been a noticeable decrease in the number of air strikes (since last night). The tanks and military vehicles have slightly pulled back, but I believe this is a tactical move, not a withdrawal," said Muin Abu Rajab, 40, a resident of Al-Rimal neighbourhood in Gaza City.

Israel's military chief yesterday said there was no ceasefire at the moment, but a tactical pause. He, however, said that if negotiations to secure the release of hostages fail to achieve their aims, the military will return to fighting in Gaza.

Under the proposal, administration of the territory would be taken up by a technocratic body overseen by a post-war transitional authority headed by Trump himself.

Since October 7, 2023, Israel's offensive has killed at least 67,139 Palestinians, according to health ministry figures in the Hamas-run territory that the United Nations considers reliable.

BCB polls today

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cast their ballots between 10:00 am and 4:00 pm to elect 17 directors from 28 candidates.

Six directors have already been elected unopposed from Category 1 (district and division), while four more directors will be elected from this category today.

In addition, 12 directors will be elected from Category 2 (Dhaka clubs), and one director will be elected from Category 3 (others). Two more directors will later be nominated directly by the National Sports Council (NSC).

Once the new board is formed, elections for president and vice-presidents will follow, determining who will run Bangladesh cricket for the next four years.

In today's election, BCB president Aminul Islam Bulbul and vice-president Nazmul Abedeen Fahim are set to contest from the Dhaka Division alongside Abdullah Al Redwan Fuad. Two directors will be elected from the Dhaka Division.

Although Redwan withdrew his name from the elections yesterday, citing a lack of transparency, his name will still appear on the ballot paper since October 1 was the last official date for withdrawal.

According to the election commissioners, 58 voters will cast their votes via e-mail, while the remaining councillors will vote in person.

Addressing the complaints made by Tamim and others regarding alleged government interference, Aminul spoke to the media yesterday at the BCB premises about his four months in charge.

"An election is an election. I had a role. We did everything within the constitution of the Bangladesh Cricket Board," Aminul told reporters.

Aminul joined the board on May 30 through the NSC quota after former president Faruque Ahmed was removed from NSC councillorship following a letter of no confidence from eight BCB directors.

Faruque, however, has come in as a nominee for directorship from the club category and is in a favourable position to be elected as a director.

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Mobilise, resist. Take action. This is a campaign for rights and justice, and we need to do this together."

He made the call on his verified Facebook page around noon (Bangladesh time), while addressing his concerns about possible arrest and deportation by Israeli forces in international waters.

"Given past history, it is very unlikely that they will let us through, and we are, in all probability, going to be arrested and either deported or sent to prison. When and where that will happen is impossible to pre-determine. It is certainly not in our hands."

Shahidul is the only Bangladeshi aboard the ship "Conscience", which is bound for Gaza in an attempt to end what he terms "an illegal siege" in famine-struck Palestine and stand in solidarity with journalists and health workers under attack there.

Setting sail from the coast of Italy on September 30, the Conscience

was 444.6 kilometres from the Gaza Sea Port as of October 5, 16:57 UTC, according to the live tracker on the official website of the Global Sumud Flotilla.

At the end of his post, Shahidul expressed gratitude to Dr Yunus for his well-wishes, saying, "I was delighted to receive a message this morning from the Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus. So good to have the messages of solidarity and support from my countryfolk and friends and well-wishers across the globe."

The Conscience is the main boat of the flotilla organised by the international initiatives Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) and Thousand Madelines to Gaza (TMTG). The freedom flotilla also comprises 10 other smaller vessels, carrying journalists, medical professionals, and humanitarian workers.

The FFC is a global civil society initiative challenging the siege of Gaza, imposed by Israel since 2007.