

## TUCK DIARIES

forward to were the feasts which were in celebration of the house winning a sports trophy. Spaghetti and meat balls was a favourite combo at these. And some of us desperate types would fill fistfuls of it in our blazer pockets to stuff ourselves again at midnight. I recall once overdoing this and you can guess, I threw up.

So far as tuck is concerned there was very little choice as the Import Control Order of 1956 had banned the import of chocolates, sweets and other such goodies. We had a choice between Cadbury's chocolates and Sathe's, and though the latter were decidedly less inviting, we often had to tolerate them.

The Tuck Shop was run by two brothers Anand Bahadur and Jung Bahadur and the one thing they made well was pastry. As a result, I was always out of pocket money. I was forever hungry - thanks to Tata House food.

### Vignettes

#### Lalit Nirula (142 K, 1959)

The most gruesome event I can remember when having a meal was when I saw Cottonwool Sardar filling his blazer pockets with spaghetti and meat balls at a K-House feast, while also filling his plate. He was apparently looking forward to a late night snack.

The most amazing feat of dexterity I have seen in the food service business was when our Kashmir house bearer, Ismail, would carry seven plates of kheer in his hands (and arms) for service on the table he looked after, without spilling a drop.

#### Dilsher Virk (140 K, 1959)

Ismail Khan, the head Bearer in K house had a jump on modern technology. He had mastered the art of applying butter in nanoparticles on toast. Nobody could stretch butter like Ismail Khan.



Kashmir House Dining Room