

Splendour of colour

What I really love about my kitchen is the bright and colourful ceramic and porcelain crockery against the backdrop of my white walls.

The red tray between the stoves to rest my cooking spoons and spatulas, the dark purple bowl to keep the chopped vegetables in, the green sieve to wash them, the yellow lime squeezer, the orange salad bowls, the gorgeous red salt shaker; these pots and pans, plates and dishes lend an air of polychromatic splendour to their practicality in my kitchen.

I also love to collect crockery, thus wherever I go, be it at the back alley of New Market or Chatu Chak in Thailand, these collectibles are always on my list. Needless to say, there is a second list of the actual things that I need, but it is always this first list that never changes and gets all my attention.

There was a time when I ran out of cash and could not buy anything from the second



while some kitchens are not too busy, others are buzzing 24/7. And my kitchen is a happening one, even at 3 AM, either my hubby is brewing his famous ginger tea during a movie break, or my son making his late-night sandwich while watching Liverpool score goals.

The place just does not sleep and every morning, to my utter surprise, his blue mug and my son's yellow plate brighten up my



mornings, before I take out my pink mug and brew my tea. It means the heart of my home is beating and keeping us all warm and fuzzy. I must add a mandatory postscript here, if the maid is not in by 7:30 AM, then the untidy mess of these colourful plates and mugs on the kitchen counter is anything but fun.

My kitchen is not any state-of-the-art fancy place, just something I built over the years; adding a cabinet here, placing a hook there, turning an old jar as spoon holder, or making an oil jar out of an old wine bottle.

I turned my grandfather's law book cabinet into an almirah for my dishes and plates. My mother-in-law's chest of drawers as my spice storage drawers. And I love this place, it has my stamp all over it; my flea market style of décor. And the colourful crockeries add that fun factor to the bohemian vibe.

My suggestion to you all would be to pay



list full of priority items. In my defence, all I can say is 'they were cute.'

I actually find my whimsical treasure hunts therapeutic; footpath ware vendors in New Market or that lone ceramic vendor in front of Hawker's Market, or the shops in the DIT-2 Gulshan Market; these haunts are the troves to browse for these porcelain items. But most recently, I found three vans chockfull of such exquisiteness in Uttara.

Salmon pink soup cups, turquoise green mugs, dark green full plates, white dessert dishes, grey platters, red bowls; the vans were full of wonderful surprises. However, just like the garments found in Doza markets, these ceramic crockeries do come with slight defects; you just have to have the patience and eye to nit-pick and find the 'best' of them. Kitchens are the hearts of all homes;



attention to every van vending crockery, you just might end up with a bargain deal for Ikea wares. And bring out your red mugs and green platters to celebrate any occasion is cheerful colours.

Happy reading!

— RBR

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ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Co-workers may not be reliable. Problems with your partner are evident. Rely on yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Manage your financial situation. Find root causes of the issue. Meet new people this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Don't lend out money. Take advantage of opportunities that present themselves. Negligence will be bad for you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Find ways to enlighten yourself. Your sensitivity will be appreciated. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Close out any pending deals. Your assertive nature will attract others. Consider yourself for a change. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Your relation could be on rocky circumstances. Fulfil all other commitments. Travel could be lucrative for you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Do research before making any decisions. Mingle with those who can help. Find time for family. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Have more confidence in yourself. Don't get into any joint ventures. Frustrations with your personal life are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise. Changes at home are necessary. Put your energy into self-improvement projects. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Utilise your extra energy properly. Make personal changes. Put your energy into home renovations. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Don't overindulge in shopping. You can receive recognition for your work. Deep discussions can cause friction. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Don't make unreasonable promises. Deal with abnormal situations rationally. Find ways to release your tension. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.