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Star

# Life

Style

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## And A Poet Said, Speak To Us Of Beauty...

SMALL AND COSY P3  
INTIMATE WEDDINGS

TRENDS IN BRIDAL  
MAKEUP C

FOR WINTRY DAYS P11  
LE REVE WINTER COLLECTION

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED ♦ MODEL: AFIA ♦ MAKE-UP: RAISA NOUSHIN ♦ HAIR: NOYON AHMED ♦ WARDROBE: SIMILY HAUTE COUTURE  
JEWELLERY: ARAAZ ♦ LOCATION: LE MERIDIEN, DHAKA ♦ STYLING: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA

**সুরক্ষিত দেয়াল  
নিরাপদ পরিবার**

এসো বাজার ব্রিন ইজি ভাইরাকেরয়ার।  
এর দিলভার আয়ন টেকনোলজি তৈরি করে অ্যান্টি-ভাইরাস কোটিং,  
যা দেয়ালে আসা ভাইরাস ও ব্যাকটেরিয়া সাথে সাথেই ধ্বংস করে।  
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# Prêt-à-porter collection by Zurhem

Faced with the impossibility of a runway show amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Zurhem – one of Dhaka's very own luxury fashion labels, organised an ambitious display of their first ever 'ready to wear' collection, on December 19, at Hotel Intercontinental Dhaka. Surprisingly, the show turned out to be rather successful; with the city's A-listers brimming the venue in their 'Z' branded masks.

Dubbed as **A Walk in the Garden**, the bespoke fashion label introduced its latest venture – the prêt-à-porter collection, designed and curated by the Creative Director of Zurhem – Mehruz Munir. Zurhem's second atelier at the Intercontinental premises in Dhaka was also unveiled at the same event.

For years, fashionable people of the society have struggled with the associated problems of a runway show. They have had to continuously juggle between the possibilities of desire, practicality and deliverability. Often the shipments made



after a particular show would take months to reach clients. Bespoke designs would claim substantial time, to achieve a similar perfection as its original, and the list goes on. On top of that, most runway clothes are an expression of creativity, comprising of esoteric designs – that are often unsuitable as wardrobe for the everyday arena. And hence the conception of the 'prêt' collection by various fashion labels around the world.

Zurhem finally joined the club in 2020, introducing their latest 'ready to wear line' to meet the fashion needs of the general. "We have sizes from extra small to various measurements in the plus-size," said Saadat Chowdhury, chairperson of Zurhem, while hosting the event. He also mentioned that they outsourced their production to other countries like Portugal, Italy and Turkey where the artisans are more equipped to work with exotic materials like python snakeskin and the likes.

*I dream of rain, I dream of gardens in the*

*desert sand, I wake in vain....* – from the track Desert Rose by Sting looped hypnotically at the show, as the models strode past the viewers, in their sailor dresses, hands thrust in the pockets of their dinner jackets, and waving their 'nature inspired' maxi dresses.

The timeless bits of luxury fashion like the tailored blazers, jackets and hoodies for the gentlemen were all about comfort and wearability. With hairstyles resonant of a 50's Gatsby party, the Zurhem prêt-à-porter line reminded us of days when people would make an effort to stay stylish, even if it meant for every day obligations, like going to the office.

In short, the Fall/Winter 2020 collection by Zurhem signifies a small gesture of hope; a comfortable collection that reminds people of the good times that are almost back at our doorsteps.

**By Fashion Police**  
**Photo Courtesy: Zurhem**

us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

# অ্যান্ডামিনা

## সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...



# When weddings are a cosy affair

My father loved match-making and has to his name the success of more than ten successful matches, some of them going strong still, some celebrating their 50th year together! What made him the happiest, however, was those spontaneous weddings he planned.

The story goes that once he went with his friend to a girl's house, and luckily, the prospective groom and the bride-to-be liked each other. He took the talks further and when everything seemed settled, got them married off instantly with whatever was there in the fridge and to the utter surprise of my mother, came back home with the bride and the groom at 4AM in the morning. In his defence, he said his friend was permanently moving abroad soon.

Scaled-down weddings, if not that sudden, are back on the social scene. The culture of intimate weddings is one good thing that came out of social distancing. To the dismay of many, prior to this lockdown, Bengali weddings were becoming a multi-million affair.

In the recent past, we had a mini wedding-like-occasion for each programme; the most recent fad of romantic proposals and pre-wedding photo sessions in outdoor locations were all the rage last season. Series of occasions like the 'paka kotha' or formal agreement between the two families, then the elaborate and grand formal engagement.

As the wedding dates drew closer, occasions like the trousseau and gift packing days with dance rehearsals, the holud, the mehendi, the rong khela, the list went on! The dance and songs were on the menu with equal gusto as the real programmes. Then the registration or aqd/nikkah ceremony, and finally, the often crore-taka wedding ceremony



itself, rounded up with a grander formal reception.

If by chance you agreed to having an early nikah, then there would be a mini holud ceremony to go with it (for reasons best known to the couples' parents), and again, another grand one before the formal receptions, often a year later.

Holuds in yesteryears were beautiful, homely affairs. There were no wedding planners with their elaborate paperwork; just a creative cousin, who took the lead and drew white 'alponas' on the 'uthans' or backyards, tied some old saris as backdrops and added banana plants strung with marigold garlands, placed some terracotta pots decorated with mango leaves and flower garlands to the dais.

For entertainment, there was the famous 'leela bali' wedding song and dance. The ceremony had to end by sunset, the menu was homemade pithas, parathas and beef bhunas, along with the mandatory fish fry. This was followed by

the small wedding on the rooftop of the family house.

I agree, with time, social cultures and events change for the better. We were holding destination holuds, which are like day-long fairs or carnivals, and destination weddings closer to nature among easy flowing green beautifications were the rage before the COVID-19 lockdown. People who were not going to exotic foreign locations were going for such wedding in our



beautiful beach locales and farm houses. However, few things do not stop because of any pandemic invasion, it might take a back seat, but life events surely go on.

The most recent wedding that I remember is of a colleague's sister. She made the prettiest bride ever in bright red sari, red lipstick and a simple head ornament — the tikli. The mother prepared some of her excellent home cooked recipes especially for the groom, the two families met, and the kazi solemnised the nikah in their living room.

All brides look pretty, but she looked ethereal in makeup done by herself. I had never seen a more beautiful bride.

My son's friends got married recently; the two kids went to the kazi office in their matching PPEs along with their families, came back home, ate their favourite kachchi biriyani, and had a blast with friends connected through zoom from all over the world. Now that was a wedding too, and a fun one at that!

The couple is now happily living their dreams.

If I were to plan a wedding now amid this lockdown, I would take all the good ideas from each decade and shape my own programme.

The rooftop wedding, I would call it — Fairy lights with fragrant beli flower garlands hanging from the off-white gazebo tents; small round tables surrounded by few chairs upholstered in off-white and gold colours. It would obviously start as a tea party with loads of finger foods and desserts on food stations, and elaborate tea bars.

The nikah would be solemnised by the kazi right there and the two families, with few friends and cousins of the bride and groom, could dance till the sunset, and the mother of the bride would serve hot plates of kachchi; everyone blessing the newlyweds to a lifetime of togetherness.

The wedding industry was a huge one, with thousands of small businesses benefitting from it. It has all taken a dip, but once we experienced the grand festive weddings, how far can we fall from it. We can adapt to things very easily, so, let's make intimate weddings this season while keeping social distancing the mantra.

— RBR  
Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

# HATIL Virtual Showroom: A Dazzling way of Shopping

Indoor decoration is more than just necessity. It represents your taste and thus, not to be taken lightly. Even the most workaholic person finds solace in the familiarity of home. The newlyweds have a chance to build a picture-perfect abode with the right furniture, but with the pandemic still very much present, it's hardly healthy to go out looking for your perfect bed.



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Worry not, for HATIL understands your woes and is pioneering a new way of furniture shopping.

Introducing the HATIL: Virtual Showroom. It is one of their recent innovations and a huge leap forward in the question of modern customer service.

Of course, the question is — what exactly is this virtual showroom? We are glad you asked. The HATIL virtual showroom is a new and arguably first initiative of a digital showroom in Bangladesh in the

furniture industry. The most common issues with the furniture showrooms are that they cannot show all of their products in a physical showroom because of the vast collection. Most showrooms can only display about 20 percent of their products, reducing the customer's options for choices. HATIL aims to solve this issue by allowing you access to a virtual showroom where you can choose from a humungous number of products.

The virtual showroom provides a 360-degree view of a real showroom on your device. Android, IOS or PC, you can access it from any smart device and browse through their extravagant collection.

There are short video clips showing the different features of a number of products, along with the opportunity to measure their dimensions on this virtual platform. If you like any product, you can just click on the hyperlink and it will take you to their official website instantly where you

can learn even more about the product, along with the opportunity to see different versions of the product as well as buying them online.

One might wonder why a virtual showroom is necessary at all. For one thing, online shopping is expanding in giant strides and it's an innovative way of displaying the products. But more importantly, because of the current pandemic plagued world, it is imperative that we reduce contamination and contact; the more you stay home, the safer you are. The virtual showroom allows you a chance to properly inspect the products from home before you buy them.

In a physical showroom, there are risks of contamination. In a virtual showroom, that chance is practically non existing. Considering the health hazards, the virtual showroom is an ingenious idea in the present-day context.

The initiative offers a whopping 70,000

square feet of virtual showroom, which is not only impressive but daring as well. It is divided in multiple levels to maximise the user experience and maintain the aesthetic setups, making it easier for users to get the best possible view. The simultaneous view, along with product information, is what users look for while doing online shopping and HATIL aims to satisfy your demands in the most modern way possible.

Known for their impeccable quality and dazzling design, it's obvious why HATIL is one of the leading names in the industry.

The levels are divided into different



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setups such as- living room, bed-dining, office and institutional. The user gets a very familiar user experience, similar to google maps. The smooth UI, combined with impressive graphics, provides a dynamic experience that is as good as it gets as a substitute for the physical showroom.

For the newlyweds, HATIL offers a dazzling number of collections to go along with their new journey.

Just scan the QR code or type the link and you are good to go.

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro

# Traditional versus the Avant- Garde Bride



The biggest sartorial shift in the wedding arena is the emergence of the shirt blouses, pants as petticoats, and roomy capes over saris. Even to the most open minded, these styles maybe 'a bit too much' for the 'deshi' bride. Experimental collections such as oversized blazers, cowboy boots and native jewellery paired with the traditional sari may evoke a sense of careless

irreverence, and may even offend many. But times are changing and Bangladeshi brides and grooms of the 21st century are experimenting with their looks.

Here, we look into few stories to familiarise ourselves with the wider range of opinions.

[FLIP TO CENTRE TO READ MORE](#)



Anista Ireen gained extra attention at her wedding, for her off-shoulder blouse and unconventional ruffled sleeves that were paired with Aztec inspired jewellery.



# To each bride, her own FINERY



"I enjoyed the attention, since it was my own wedding, I wanted to stand out and my plan certainly worked," said the fashionista, who was often praised by her friends, for being rather bold and experimental, especially with her wardrobe.

Weddings are often an elaborate affair in Bangladesh. Every bride secretly prays to look her best and tries the most 'within her control,' to achieve the possibility — from going to the best beauty salon, to the best luxury fashion label in town. These brides are often reluctant to experiment with their looks for 'the day of the wedding' and often surrender to the 'traditional' style, acceptable by the society at large.

Mousinin Sultana, another new bride, who had an intimate wedding last November amidst the pandemic, agrees.

"Weddings in Bangladesh are not a place to experiment. You have so many 'murubbis' (elders) coming to event, and they are easily offended by anything beyond the conventional. And on a day when you need blessings from all, why offend anyone particular! Plus, there is also the issue that the look opted for may not suit us at all. And weddings are usually a one-time affair, there shouldn't be any glitches intentionally made," said Sultana.

These were differing points of view from two separate brides — poles apart, but with a common goal, both of whom wanted to look their best at their own wedding celebrations.

While we believe there's no topping

the customary look of a traditional 'bou' in Bangladesh — with her red teep, cent-parted hair, mini bun tucked skillfully with jasmine garlands and the blood-red katan sari, we also agree that there's nothing wrong with a little experimentation.

When brides are already copying their favourite celebrities from Bollywood; why shouldn't they experiment and try something fresh and original? Why not try a style that accentuates personalities instead?

"Although the times call for familiarising oneself with their own identities and finding styles that replicate the personality; I still desire to remain very basic, traditional and feminine, and that represents purity in my eyes," said Mahera Sultana, a teacher who plans to have a traditional wedding when her time comes.

Whatever the scenario may be; every woman looks like a goddess as a bride. It doesn't matter whether they have stilettos on their feet or firm boots; as long as they are comfortable in their look, brides always look their best.

Amen to that!

**By Fashion Police**  
**Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed**  
**Models: Manoshi, Niki, Afa**  
**Wardrobe: Tangail Saree Kutir and Simily Haute Couture**  
**Styling: Sonia Yesmin Isha**  
**Makeup: Raisa Noushin**  
**Jewellery: Araaz**  
**Hair: Noyon Ahmed**  
**Location: Le Meridien, Dhaka**



# Gender Diverse Bridal Campaign by Zainah Habib

The inequality existent in our nation, in respect to gender identity, diversity and recognition, bothered Zainah Habib greatly. After completion of her studies, Habib finally decided to do something about it.

"At the beginning, I was rather vocal about the rights of the transgender community in our society. Then I realised, I was not the only one supporting the cause, there were many others with similar convictions. That's when I firmly decided to advance my plans to promote the rights of the distressed; be it the transgender folks who are continuously looked down upon, the plus-sized women who are unnecessarily mocked, or the dusky complexioned girls whose confidence is shattered by the people around her, including loved ones," Habib said.

Based on her concerns, Habib decided to bring all the mentioned categories under a single platform — the wedding dais. She planned on using special models to portray themselves as brides and show the world that they could also look equally beautiful.

"Whenever we discuss a bride, we refer to her as being fair, skinny and tall. Somehow, anything different from the aforementioned adjectives does not represent the typical idea of a 'beautiful bride;' my plan is to shatter the pre-conceived colonial view of the masses regarding feminine beauty.

"I want to show the world that a transwoman can also be a beautiful bride, the plus-sized next-door neighbour can be stunning, and the dusky girl that we see in our everyday lives can look gorgeous, any given day. Fair and skinny can no longer be the only two qualifiers to defining the term beautiful," she said.

In order to promote her beliefs, and normalise the concept of diversity in beauty, Habib, who owns FlexBiz, which is an online platform that promotes start-



ups, established businesses and myriad endeavours and projects, arranged a range of photo-shoots, termed as Gender Diverse Bridal Campaign, to promote the new definitions to beauty.

"At FlexBiz, we rejoice as a community, irrespective of one's gender, class and ethnicity," stated Habib.

Here's to wishing Zainah Habib more

strength and courage in bringing many more such unconventional projects to limelight because after all, without respect towards all human beings irrespective of their gender, colour and race; humanity cannot survive.

**By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury**  
**Photography: Raufun Nur Ratul**  
**Model in this photo: Srabonti Srabon**

**Campaign Models: Srabonti Srabon, Urmi Rahman Mishti, Aishwariya Ayshe, Mayesha Chowdhury**  
**Makeup: Makeup Fusion by Anfisa Wamik**  
**Wardrobe: Belora by Biva Mosharraf**  
**Jewellery: Zevar by Resma Islam**  
**Accessories: Jhooli by Nasreen S**  
**Location: Ziaur Rahman, The Secret Garden**

## ◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



### ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Don't discuss personal matters with others. Changes at home will be favourable. Spend more time with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



### TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Pay heed of your surroundings. Don't overspend on luxury. Any investment is a bad idea. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



### GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Find ways to lift your spirits. Learn to say no. Focus your attention at work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



### CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Avoid confrontations with loved ones. Direct your energy wisely. Find ways to make extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



### LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Don't let anyone put you down. Keep your plans secret. Your contributions will be valued. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Check everything before making a move. Plan somewhere to travel to. Time to fix things with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



### LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Look into real estate investments. Social activities will be enjoyable. Don't fall for get-rich-quick schemes. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



### SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Don't torment yourself. Disharmony at home will be stressful. Go out with friends. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Don't spend extravagantly this week. Be prepared to lose friends. Concentrate on your future. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Keep track of your legal documents. Look into a healthier diet. Catch up on correspondence. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



### AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Don't go overboard with your plans. Business plans will go smoothly. Make informed decisions regarding investments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



### PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Start saving. Helping out at home will be appreciated. Try not to gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

# Wonderful sweet treats

Cooking with children can be messy, and fun too! While baking from scratch is a hassle, using premade ingredients is always a relief, especially for parents. In the midst of juggling house chores and work, a little assistance in the kitchen can make the experience enjoyable for children and parents alike.

Wonder Muffin Cake, a delectable sweet treat, works as a great base for a variety of recipes. The dense and decadent muffins are a great snack on their own, but the following items made using Wonder Muffin Cake can be used to whip up easy and delicious treats in no time. Get your children involved here because these recipes require a sous chef!



## S'MORES MUFFIN

### Ingredients

- 7 packs Wonder Muffin Cake
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence
- 7 mini-cookies for garnish

### Method

Separate the egg white from yolk and start whipping the egg white inside a large bowl on medium speed. After a couple of minutes when it reaches a gloopy consistency, add in vanilla extract. Turn the mixer to high and gradually add sugar by the spoonful, incorporating well after each addition.

Within 5 – 7 minutes, the meringue should have stiff peaks. Scoop the mixture into a piping bag and pipe this over the muffins. Using a blowtorch, slightly toast the meringue frosting on the sides. Tuck in a little cookie or chocolate disc for garnish.

## CHOCOLATE TRIFLE

### Ingredients

- 6 packs Wonder Muffin Cake
- 2 cups heavy cream
- ½ cup molten chocolate
- ½ cup icing sugar
- Chocolate chips for garnish

### Method

In a large chilled bowl, pour one cup heavy cream and whip on medium speed. After 2 – 3 minutes when it is at the soft peak stage, gradually add a quarter cup icing sugar and continue to whip on high. Once all of the sugar is incorporated and stiff peaks form, stop whipping immediately.

For the chocolate variant, repeat the process until it has soft peaks. Gradually incorporate half the quantity of sugar and chocolate and beat on high till it forms stiff peaks. Crumble six muffin cakes and add the remaining amount of chocolate to this. Layer the three components in your



serving dish atop each other and finish off by sprinkling chocolate chips.

## STRAWBERRY SANTA

### Ingredients

- 8 packs Wonder Muffin Cake
- 8 large strawberries
- 50g unsalted butter
- 100g cream-cheese
- ½ cup icing sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla essence

### Method

Trim the top of each muffin to get a flat top and chop off the leafy part of strawberries to attain the same. To make the cream-cheese frosting, beat butter and cream-

cheese together until soft and creamy. Add in vanilla extract and gradually incorporate sugar little by little until fully combined and scoop this mixture inside a piping bag.

In order to assemble, pipe the cream-cheese frosting atop each muffin. Use this as a glue to place the strawberries on top. Add a small dollop of the frosting to the tip of each strawberry to represent a Santa Claus hat. Garnish with colourful sprinkles to add a festive touch.

## CAKE POPS

### Ingredients

- 8 packs Wonder Muffin Cake
- ¼ cup chocolate frosting
- 1/3 cup white chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup milk chocolate chips
- 2 tbsp coconut oil
- 2 tsp milk
- Sprinkles of choice

### Method

Add 1 tbsp coconut oil to milk chocolate chips and heat this in the oven for 20 seconds. Take it out and stir – repeat the process until the chocolate is entirely molten. Do the same with white chocolate chips and stir in a splash of milk after heating it for the final time.

Crumble the muffin cakes into fine crumbs and add chocolate frosting to it. Mix these two elements well to get a moist and fudgy mixture that comes together when pressed and roll these into little balls.

Dip the cake-pop sticks into molten chocolate and then insert them halfway inside the balls – leave them in the refrigerator for 15 minutes. After that, coat the cake-pops entirely with molten chocolate and garnish with colourful sprinkles while still warm.



By Fariha Amber  
Photo and food: Fariha Ambar



# Skin Care with Petroleum Jelly

The skin, the body's largest organ, is also the body's first shield against any external harm. Harsh environmental conditions, weather changes and pollution can weaken and damage skin, for which skin care is essential. However, it does not always mean to break the bank. Petroleum jelly, a common product in almost everyone's medicine cabinet, can do wonders for the skin.

#### Revitalises dry skin

Dry skin is a common development during winter. It causes elbows, lips, hands, and other parts of the body to become itchy,



flaky, and sometimes, even bleed. As lotions and ointments can often cause burning and irritation, applying petroleum jelly on cracked skin is gentler. It seals in skin moisture and soothes thinner skin areas, like the eyelids and lips, and prevents any flakiness and cracking.

#### Aids skin injury

Dryness can lead to minor injuries like small cuts and scratches. Sometimes, the skin region around nails becomes white and shrivelled, causing skin to peel off. Applying petroleum jelly to such injury prone regions aids in retaining moisture and thereby aids

the healing process. It prevents the wound from forming scabs, which take longer to heal and reduces the chances of any scarring.

#### Prevents chafing

Chafing is a kind of skin irritation that occurs when skin rubs against clothing, or when body parts rub together. This can often lead to redness, itchiness, blisters, irritation and in extreme cases, causes skin to peel off. This painful and uncomfortable development can be prevented by applying



petroleum jelly to problematic areas. It reduces friction and prevents any further damage.

#### Works as a makeup remover

Leftover makeup can cause immense damage to the skin during any season. It remains imperative that makeup, especially on the eyelids and lips, is removed properly. Petroleum jelly has an oily texture, which makes removing makeup much easier and effective. Some removers might leave behind redness or require extra force. However, petroleum jelly further promotes skin moisturising in the process of removing makeup and improves overall skin health.

#### Restores youthful appearance

Petroleum jelly can be used in diverse ways. Be it to aid dry skin or to make a face mask, it can make one's skin look and feel more youthful. Household ingredients like lemon can be added to petroleum jelly to make gentle face masks. Lemon is not only friendly on the skin, due to its pH level, but also contains antioxidants which promote skin health and skin glow. Such a combination would leave one looking youthful and prepared for any weather.

Petroleum jelly, although not always suitable for oily skin, is an effective and inexpensive solution for all skin problems. Its diverse uses and combinations leave no skin problem unhealed, and promises skin health, protection, and overall radiance!

By Puja Sarkar

Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Meril  
Petroleum Jelly

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#PRESS RELEASE

# Le Reve launches all-new Winter 2020 Collection

One of the leading fashion and lifestyle brands in the country, Le Reve, has come up with a brand-new winter clothing collection titled 'Winter Collection 2020' keeping in mind the three stages of winter— light, medium, and heavy.

Monnujan Nargis, director of Le Reve and head of the design team, stated, "This year's international fashion trends are being dominated by Scandinavian and Mid-Century Dutch motifs and colours. Inspired by this trend, we have created three new winter collections for women, men and children — Pasto, Tempest and Great Smoky, respectively."

She added that the variety of plaid, check, denim and tweed jackets, blazers, sweaters, waistcoats and hoodies for men will catch everyone's eyes. High neck and hoodie tunics, sweaters, shrugs, jackets, cardigans, ponchos, velvet cape and shawls have especially been designed for women.

Winter fabrics like cotton and viscose



blends, velvet, flannel, silk blend, wool, cashmere, taffeta, mesh are preferred for this latest collection.

"Above all, the Winter 2020 collection focuses on utility and minimalist approach," she added.

#### Men's Collection: Tempest

The title of the Le Reve Winter 2020 Men's Collection is Tempest. The main focus of this collection are the traditions, architecture and folklore of the Scandinavian region. Golden, yellow, turquoise, scarlet red, brown, blue and green are the predominant colours in this segment.

Scandinavian plaid inspired shirts, jackets and shirt-jackets along with taffeta, plaid tweed, suede and knit jackets have been designed for layering. Round, high and turtle neck sweaters are the main attractions this time, and V-neck sleeveless sweater and waistcoats are also available.

The maximum utility of the jackets has been ensured using hoodies and patches.

Sweatshirts, gilets, regular and cargo style Punjabi, long sleeve casual and hoodie shirts, polo shirts, half and full sleeve t-shirts have also added some great utility features.

Trendy sweatpants and distorted denim have been added to the bottoms collection. Athleisure and office-to-party focused 9-to-9 collections also feature new winter styles.

#### Women's Collection: Pasto

Half-century Dutch motifs and silhouettes made a good impression on the '70s fashion. The minimalist look, the utility features, the ankle-length maxi dress, the high neck, the folk-embroidery, the fitted blazers and jackets, the culottes, the palazzo and the disco glamour of the time contributed to the long line. These features have been included in the Le Reve Women's Winter 20 Collection: Pasto.

The predominance of retro orange, rust and cherry red, golden, yellow, brown, olive green, blue, pink, sand and mushroom brown and peach is the highlight of the

collection. Salwar kameez set, gown, single kameez, tops, shirt, tunic and shrug are made by arranging layer, hoodie, and utility belts.

The sweater collection features high neck, lapel collar, buttonless and button-down features. Velvet trim cardigans, single and double-breasted jackets, hoodies, and shawls are arranged in a casual but elegant capsule that will give any garment both the convenience and warmth of layering.

The Nine-to-Nine Collection also adds winter clothing suitable for office and party wear.

#### Kids Collection: Great Smoky

The children's Winter Kids Collection: Great Smoky is made up of elements from the Scandinavian folklore and the changing colours of the Great Smoky Mountain range. Chocolate, peach, olive and forest green, yellow, brown, red, cream, blue and bluish-grey palettes have been used to tell the stories of the concept.

Popular children's favourite characters and caricatures, geometric patterns and mountain-flower prints have been used come up as motifs on sweatshirts, sweaters, pullover vests, long sleeve hoodie shirts, jackets, t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve hoodie t-shirts, and long sleeve polo for boys.

Casual and party frocks, tunics, woven sets, sweatshirts, basic hoodies and jackets and cardigan style sweaters are kept for the girls. Le Reve's Newborn collection also includes winter ware for babies. In addition to clothing, stylish unisex winter caps and hats made of wool have been added this time.

This new winter collection has already reached all of Le Reve outlets. To buy online visit [www.lerevecraze.com](http://www.lerevecraze.com) and [www.facebook.com/lerevecraze](http://www.facebook.com/lerevecraze)

Photo Courtesy: Le Reve



## করোনা কে ভয়, এখন আর নয়

ব্যাকট্রল সাবান অথবা হ্যান্ড ওয়াশ  
দিয়ে প্রতিবার অন্তত ২০ সেকেন্ড\* হাত ধুয়ে নেই

এখন প্রতিটি ব্যাকট্রল হ্যান্ড ওয়াশ পাম্প ২০০ মিঃলিঃ  
এর সাথে **১টি ফেস ফ্রি!** মাস্ক

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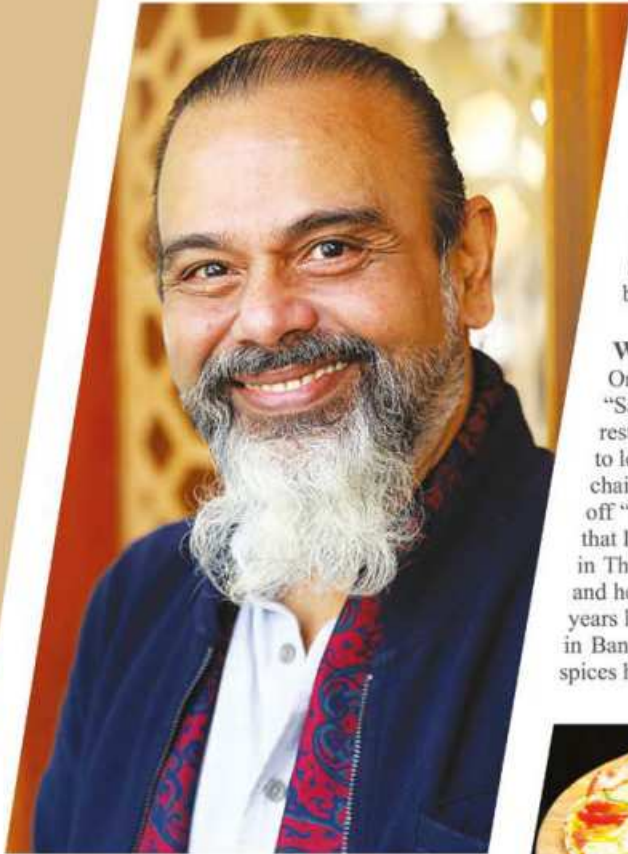
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\* Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)

# INSIDE LOOK

## at Saltz, El Toro & Raffinato



*In conversation  
with  
Iftekhar Ahmed Khan*

**What inspired you to become a restaurateur? Where did it all begin?**

My journey almost 37 years ago when I was doing summer jobs at restaurants in Chicago while I was going to college. The thing that inspired me at that time was the hospitality that was provided through this industry and satisfying their culinary needs. I began rising through the ranks and became a Certified Trainer for the company "El Torito", who had about 280 restaurants in the US. I was in charge of training the management, cooks and other personnel in the Mid-West region. Back in 1989 I decided to move back to Bangladesh and looking for ways to open up my own restaurant. Working with El Torito was the fundamental thing that inspired me to open a Mexican restaurant in the beginning. When I formulated the plans to open "El Toro", everyone close to me was saying what a bad idea it was, because people's culinary pallet in this country was not rich enough. But I had faith in my background knowledge of the industry and started it out in 1994 in Dhanmondi. As soon as I was up and running, people responded very



well to it, especially the foreigners that lived here. When El Toro was established, I thought about venturing into some new form of cuisine. A school friend of mine approached me about opening up a sea-food restaurant in Dhaka. Same thing happened, people told me I've gone mad and nobody would eat Sea-food



here. But I thought, if I could make a Mexican restaurant work here, I can make Sea-food work as well. That's when I established "Saltz". When Saltz became a success as well, I thought about venturing out again. So, I spent 5 years of my time researching and honing the skills & resources to open up an Italian Fine Dining restaurant. So, when we finally came up with a menu for it, we opened up "Raffinato". So, this was the beginning of my culinary journey.

**What challenges did you face initially?**

One of initial challenges that I faced when opening up "Saltz" was procuring fresh sea fish to serve at my restaurant. I had to travel to Chittagong and Cox Bazar to look into suppliers who can set me up with a supply chain of fresh fish. Then initially when I was starting off "El Toro", it was difficult for me to get the spices that I needed locally. But, luckily I had two colleagues in Thailand who were in the Mexican spice business and helped me import the spices that I needed. As the years have gone by, all those spices are now available in Bangladesh and that challenge of importing those spices have greatly been reduced.



**You have managed to stay as one of the most diverse restaurants in Dhaka where you came up with Mexican cuisine, Italian cuisine, seafood etc. What's your secret in sustaining so well over the years, while others have not done as well enough?**

In this business, I believe in 3 things. Quality, Service and Cleanliness. This is my philosophy in my businesses. I don't make any compromises in these. I won't serve you any Sub-par food in my restaurant, if I don't have it, I will tell you straightforwardly. I make sure to train every single personnel that I hire into the company. So that they know my standard and uphold them. Over the years, people have sing praises of my restaurants for upholding these standards and values.



Cleanliness is also one of our fundamental things, the kitchen, staff and overall atmosphere is always clean and people always appreciates it. I don't look for mediocrity, I always look for excellence. That sort of made me and restaurants an instant success and people took notice to that.

**What steps you have taken for your restaurants to adapt to the new normal?**

For the restaurant, we are deep cleaning it on a monthly basis. Daily cleaning has been severely amped up as well, with surfaces at the tables and door handles being cleaned with surface disinfectants. There's Hand Sanitizers in every table and we have made no exception in choosing out the best one. We also check the temperature of the guests at the entrance and mask is mandatory as well. Our staffs are always wearing masks and Face Shields for both their safety and the customers.

**We have seen a lot of people trying their hands in different cuisines during the lockdown. Any advice for the aspiring chefs/home-cooks of Dhaka?**

I think it is very good to see people getting into cooking. In Bangladesh, we have certain stereotypes. Guys are not supposed to cook, that's the general attitudes. But it's actually guys who are leading the kitchens in this industry. It's also good for society. Once you get into this habit of



cooking, whether it be male or female, you're contributing to your family, particularly to your near ones. I think it has helped young couple's bond and share responsibilities during the lockdowns as well. I only hope this habit continues. My message for those who are venturing out into business through home cooking is to avoid copying others work. Be original, creative and create your own style of cooking. You must study and research to develop your skill and culinary pallet.

**We know you are not someone to stay quiet for long and you have been expanding your footprint all over Dhaka city. Any exciting news for expanding into other cities of BD anytime soon?**



I am setting up an exciting catering business in the coming months. All my restaurants are set up and I can give my utmost effort into constructing it. I want to take catering service to another level. I will do from corporate dinners to personal catering for your personal intimate vents. All the dishes, silverware and everything will be of high end. Every single thing will deliver a message about my product. The guys who'll serve will look better than the guests so to speak. This is the way I want to go with this venture. I am very passionate and excited about it moving forward.

*The interview was taken by Foysal Mahmud Niloy.  
 Photo: SK ENAMUL HAQ*