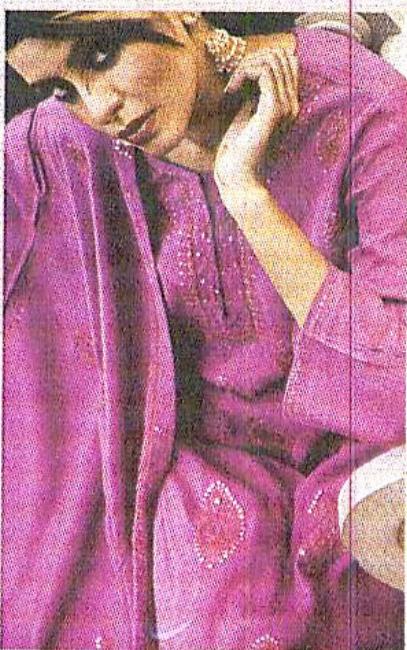


ON THE COVER



Floods, inclement weather and inflation notwithstanding, Ramadan just flew by this year. As we stand poised before the largest Muslim festival of the year, Star Lifestyle wishes its readers a hearty Eid Mubarak.

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Wardrobe: Mayasir

ESSENTIALS



Tailoring tell-tales

THIS being the last of the bumper Eid issues, we are taking a different turn this week. For some of the past issue, Lifestyle has dived on, on the topic of tailoring and other sartorial nitty-gritties. Yet much water has passed under the bridge, and many a yard of fabric has been cut and metamorphosed to lavish attires, be it panjabis, saris, fatuas or salwar kameez.

As for this final issue, it goes without saying that the tailors are already overburdened with orders from their existing clientele. And consequently, these sartorial spell makers are closing their doors on anyone who comes in for a last moment order. For the men and the women who have as of yet not shed off their belief in the motto: "you are never too late", these people are in for hard luck.

Nonetheless, for those who were a little quicker on the wit (and planning), and accordingly, have placed their orders in time, there remains something more to do. Before you stash away the tailored items for the Eid day, make a point in trying them on. In case the clothes do not fit- say for example, the neck is too wide or the shoulders too narrow, seek alteration before it is too late. Chances are, with the large volume of work to cater to, the tailors would lose track once in a while. So there may be a possibility of making several alterations for various customers. So, queue up early on.

Likewise, it is well and good where no alteration is needed.

With all that in mind, stay healthy, stay happy and have a great Eid.

By Shahmuddin Ahmed Siddiky
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

HOME DECOR



blooming decorations

EID-UL-FITR can be considered to be one of the largest festivals in our country. Every year during Eid, celebrating crowd pours into the streets in their new attire, ready to embrace their near and dear ones; visit their relatives and in all, to spread a general feeling of joy and merriment. A number of people prepare to receive many visitors on Eid day, taking care to overload the dinner table with a sumptuous meal and hospitably force the guests to overeat.

But is dressing up and preparing a delicious meal all you can do to make your residence more attractive? Certainly not, decorating with flowers can really change your home's atmosphere.

The most obvious place to start decorating is the dining room, where the food meant for visitors will be spread out. Nina Rahman, Managing Partner & CEO of Ikebana, shares with us some very useful advice on flower arrangements.

"Since the dining table will probably be the main attraction of the house," she tells us, "it would be fitting to put a bunch of flowers on the center, but we must also keep in mind that it should be of a low height."

Additionally, this bunch of flowers should not take up too much space nor be too extravagant. To find something like this, you should probably visit the flower shops in Bailey Road, where you will find an abundance of small flower arrangements in cute,

low baskets and in mellow colours.

Another place that should be top of the list for some beautification is the sitting room where guests will be received. If you have a low table, you can arrange a basket of flowers there as well. Or you can plant bouquets in vases, but make sure that the colours of the blossoms don't clash with their containers.

"When it comes to flowers found in our country," says Nina Rahman, "gladiola, dolonchapa, lilies and a few of such slender flowers look good in tall vases."

You can set a few of these in the corner of your rooms without making the surroundings seem too crowded, and different coloured orchids and roses can also be placed in smaller vases and kept on tabletops. Visiting Ferns n' Petals would probably be the best way to find unique colours and fresh batches, although you can try the flower shops in the streets of Shahbagh as well.

If your sitting room contains wooden shelves, then you can hang some marigold or other garlands there at occasional intervals, particularly if the decorations kept there are of a dull tint. You can also place money plants in small pots on these shelves and let the hanging vines create a serene effect. You can sprinkle some white beli or jui garlands on small bowls and scatter them around the room as well. The white flowers will look particularly nice on bright coloured contain-

ers and will smell beautiful.

When it comes to colour coordination, Nina Rahman agrees with us about the importance of the environment.

"The flower arrangements should strike a balance with the colours of the curtains, sofas and the surrounding," she advises us, "so it is better to use white flowers alongside other hues instead of using too many colourful ones at once, and making the entire place look overdone and gaudy!"

For example, white gladiolas can be used with red and yellow ones, where the white touch will soften the brightness of the latter colours, which incidentally are symbols of holidays and spring festivity in China and South Asia. White and green are both very safe colours, where green stands as a symbol of youth, so the aforementioned blooms arranged with leaves and vines can also be a wonderful way to make your home look cheerful and inviting.

These gifts of nature can be applied in any setting and if elegantly used, can brighten up even the dullest of rooms. The minor adjustments, such as arranging flower baskets, placing a plant near your entrance or even putting one or two blossoms in a slim vase will give your home a warm aura and make your guests feel much more welcome.

By Shuprova Tasneem
Photo Courtesy: Ikebana

