

ON THE COVER



It's time to get your glam on! Aarong brings you a dazzling line of party wear, like this chic appliqué worked number. Don't forget to check out Maheen Khan's take on the season's look on Page 3. **Photo Courtesy: Aarong**
Lifestyle wishes its readers a hearty Eid Mubarak and a very Merry Christmas

ESSENTIALS

Christmas at The Westin Dhaka

CELEBRATE Christmas at the Westin Dhaka with a fun and fervor. In light of the occasion, the hotel will be decorated with a very special theme with Christmas trees and lighting.

The Westin also offers Christmas Eve and Christmas day lunch and dinner featuring pan Asian spread including celebration specials such as, roasted turkey, Christmas pudding, chocolate logs and much more.

Their 24-hour open deli treats will have a grand sale of Christmas bakery delights where one can indulge in all the delectable treats they have to offer.

For children, the hotel will be organising the 'Westin Children Party', which will include a multitude of roaming performances such as magic shows, puppet shows, and carol singing complement with delicious treats, as well as a meeting with Santa Claus.

So, make it a point visit the Westin Dhaka, and elevate your senses during this Christmas.

Merry Christmas at Sheraton!

DECEMBER is the month of festivals and The Sheraton will be celebrating Christmas and the countdown to the New Year in style!

Enjoy the magic of Christmas with Santa in the Hotel Lobby from the 19th of December until Christmas day. Dhaka Sheraton invites you to experience Jolly Saint Nick as he looks to hand out toys, chocolates and presents to the kids.

The Lobby Cafe will be offering freshly made Christmas treats such as, fruitcake, Yule Logs and cookies from the 15th to the 25th.

Also, indulge with family and friends at Bithika and enjoy a lavish buffet featuring roast turkey, rye bread stuffing, giblet gravy and Cranberry sauce. But, if you are in the mood for something relatively quieter and romantic, visit the Vintage room and dine within the warmth of deep woods and soft candle light.

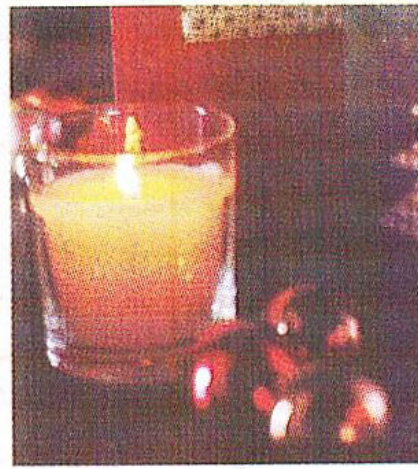
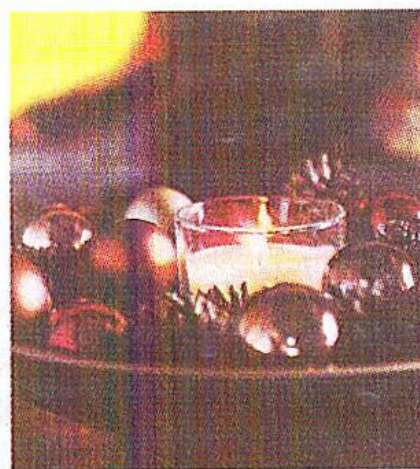
Romantic Candle Light Dinner

CATCH the weekend vibe at the Vintage Restaurant at the Dhaka Sheraton with their guest pianist whilst you relax in the surroundings of the elegance past.

Two tempting set menus await you for Taka 2300, every Thursday night starting December.

CHRISTMAS DECOR

Spruce up for Christmas



WITH the year drawing to a close, and Christmas drawing closer, it's time to add a festive touch to your decor. While a large Christmas tree in a brightly lit corner is a gorgeous thing to have, the option is not always viable. Sometimes, small ideas make for a great makeover for our home. There are various ideas for welcoming Christmas. Let's check some of these out.

Candles

Candle setting is easy and looks really impressive. Secure four red long dinner candles on a glass saucer with melted wax, and place it in the centre of the table. Add a round twig wreath over this, so the candles sit inside it. This setting is excellent for dinner tables.

You can set a group of white or lemon pillar candles in a cluster, or in a horizontal line, decorated with artificial ivy leaves, which are available in the market. Balls and mini baubles always create a lovely look. Simple touches like a single red glass candle and red vase with a rose, or a golden glass candle present in the coffee table or shelves, look cute.

Stars

Stars are always popular in Christmas. It is a unique symbol of this holy day. Why not use these stars in our homes? They are ideal for window dressing. Even in the foyer, living or dining spaces, we can hang up a long star string from one corner to another, and open the window. As they play with the wind, it will bring a cheerful mood.

Crockery

Crockery always plays a dynamic role for parties. Especially for the festive time we can use colorful, smart, and uncommon serving dishes, plates, wine glass and cutlery. Cutlery also brings welcoming and attractive mood for dinner.

Tableware

Table tops always a great platform for any home. A bunch of fresh flower is a simple tip for any occasion. But attention to details like tablecloth, runner, mat, napkin, glass holder or other accessories also draws good impression.

Paper cutting

This is another enjoyable idea for the kids. Sometimes small children play with Lego and paper-cutting books. These intelligent

games enrich the children's minds. Create a corner in the children's room or family living room and hang their products, which brings many fun and playful moments for the Christmas holiday.

Gift Corner

Gift-giving is part of many festive occasions, and Christmas is no exception, coming alive with baubles, gifts and warm excitement. Finding gift-wrapped parcels and boxes under the Christmas tree sends a thrill to children and adults alike. So, the wrapping paper, ribbon etc are all essential for Christmas décor. These innovative packaging and gift-wrapping are very exciting for children. They wait eagerly for this special occasion.

In the end, if you are searching for something special to spruce up your home for Christmas then make some small innovative changes which will entertain all on this special day.

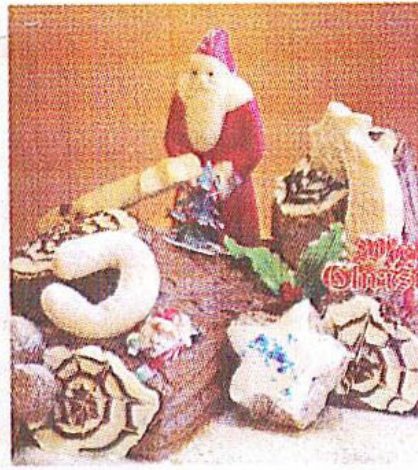
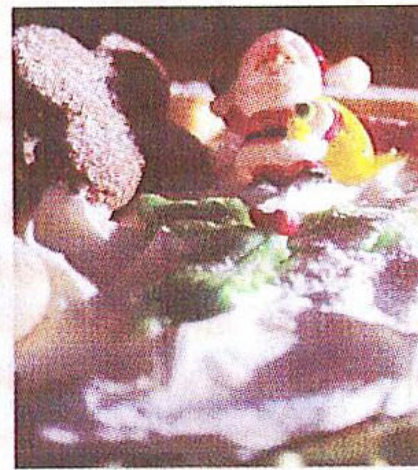
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Photo credit: Journeyman Archives



Christmas buys

A colourful Christmas with thousands of twinkling lights, shimmering ornaments and sparkling Christmas trees is a spectacular candy for the eye. You can choose from hundreds of different styles, colours, designs and themes, and the temptation is often to choose a bit of everything and end up in a horrible mess. This week's shoptalk thus focuses on the essential Christmas décor that the town has to offer.

Almost all of us who celebrate Christmas will put up a Christmas tree of some kind. It is one of the most recognisable symbols of Christmas. Since the real Pine is not available in Dhaka, you have to settle for the artificial one made of jute or plastic. Folk International can be one of your places to buy a Christmas tree for Tk 2700 to Tk 3750 depending on the size. Otherwise you can go for a random search

through DCC markets in Gulshan.

Once you have a Christmas tree, you can start decorating it by arranging the filler ornaments evenly spaced around the tree. You'll need about 20 filler ornaments for every 2 feet of Christmas tree. For exclusive decorating ornaments, Sally Ann alone can serve your needs. Glittery metallic stars (a pack of 4) in golden and silver colors would cost you Tk 220 to Tk 1233. Sparkling solid balls made of beads and wires are of Tk 160 each. Beside these, you can get wreaths for Tk 250, jute balls for Tk 85 and various decorating ornaments from Tk 20 to Tk 600.

Our very own local brands are not lagging behind when it comes to Christmas decorations. Folk International has a huge stock of such ornaments made of clothes, foam, paper, wood and jute. Their prices are as follows: wreaths for the front door

Tk 100 to Tk 400, balls Tk 40, Christmas bells Tk 10 to Tk 120 and decorating pieces Tk 20 to Tk 160. Aarong offers an array of ornaments including aluminum bells, glittery balls and small zuni angels which would cost around Tk 40. Keeping in with the festivity Jatra has also come up with total new desi ornaments within Tk 10 to Tk 150. For Christmas lighting you can buy the night-lights for Tk 150 to 200 a stripe from most of the electrical shops.

After all that is said and done, it is the special touch that makes the difference: your home could be transformed by a single beautiful flower and foliage arrangement, or the smell of a gorgeously scented candle. So let your creativity flow and have a merry Christmas!

By Shakhawat Imam Rajeeb

Food prepared by The Westin, Dhaka

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed