

# Rock, plastic, scissors but no paper

This brand new digital age is certainly not for the cynics and the pessimists. With everyone into credit cards and bitcoin mining, even fiat currency in the form of money is coming to end. The bits of paper that our entire lives revolve around (why though, aliens wonder) may soon be doomed to the same fate as every crispy, white, piece of paper that ever made anything up. Everyday is now turning into a paperless day and it does not feel comfortable.

No longer do we wake up to a hot cup of tea while straightening the day's newspaper. No one squabbles over the cartoon, sport and entertainment sections. A family that used to have their breakfast together and break each other news now find themselves sitting in their own rooms, huddled over their phones or computers while munching on whatever new healthy (read yucky) recipe the missus found on the internet. "Honey, did you hear about the stock market crash in China?" I ask, with trepidation. "That's old news," she says with irritation. "But, it's the headline!" I declare. "Yes, today's headline is yesterday's rubbish in the online world," she replies. Right,

indeed.

Even reading in the parks is a thing of the past these days. "What on earth is that man doing with a processed tree with lines drawn on them," they ask me aloud. "Oh come on! You can at least read the alphabets even if you don't know what a book is," I wish to scream out. Of course, they don't know what books are. They will never know the feeling of thumbing through a brand new hard-cover book, with the smell of fresh paper intoxicating as well while your forefinger turns black with the black print which the words are printed from. They will never know the sheer joy of opening a letter from a loved one, having waited to hear from them for months. Nowadays, a simple click sends a mail and the value of good handwriting is forgotten business.



No manila envelope, no scented paper. Just a bland, uniform looking email with the lines, I miss you. Doesn't pack the same punch. Sure, you could use different colours and fonts to customise your email to add a personal touch but what man

knows about colours and fonts anyway? When we wrote letters our poor grammar and extremely bad handwriting made us endearing. Now all we have is block letters and a computer reminding us of how stupid we are by drawing accusatory red lines on every spelling mistake.

No one passes notes in class and only texts each other instead. In fact, with paper words too have lost their value with people replacing normal text conversations by sending pictures to each other. This entire generation now communicates using memes. Hungry?

Send a picture of a cat saying he "haz" cheeseburgers. Feeling funky? Text your SO the hot lips. The world does work in weird ways these days with us regressing back to talking to each other using hieroglyphics.

But what if you wanted to retain the value of paper? They won't let you. They'll tell you how you are killing the trees. You may retort that using plastic hurts the earth much more. They will then reply with an angry face followed by a few X's and a sad crying face. It gets weird in the world today these days. But then again what can one expect from a paperless world apart from madness? And when the next Y2K happens and the banks lose all the records of all the debt; then there will be real anarchy and they'll know what we were prophesying about. Or maybe such a thing will be the reset button the world really needed. Maybe. Till then, hold onto your books as dearly as you can. Nothing is permanent in the digital world. Paper is the only true face of stability. And if paper goes extinct, what will kids sing about anyway? Bits of plastic lying on the floor? Just doesn't have the same zing to it.

By Osama Rahman

## CHECK IT OUT

# Savour in steaks of Sonargoan

Dhaka has long been in love with beef, with many of our most famous restaurants in the city claiming to be well celebrated for their steaks. There's been an influx of several new eateries that either specialises in steak or has made it a signature dish on the menu. Nevertheless, for over a decade or so, if there is one name that is most synonymous with different types of steak specialties, it has been the signature grill restaurant at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka, named Jharna. Amidst the beautiful water fountain setting, guests that stay at the hotel or just come to enjoy pleasant dining are opting for the steaks at Jharna every day.

Inspired by the famous American and Australian steak dishes, Jharna Grill has quickly become a go-to place for Dhaka's social elites. And at night, just about everyone is ordering steaks ranging from Tk2500 to Tk5000. Thickly carved slabs of succulent meat are cooked just the way you ask. A satisfyingly rich tarragon-scented sauce is swished over the top.

Keeping the popularity of beef in mind among the diners of Dhaka city dwellers, Pan Pacific Sonargaon brings to you its very own steak promotion, which will run from 11 to 20 September, 2015 at Jharna Restaurant. So, go dine in and tuck into a big, beefy steak that's hard to resist.



# Shop24 offering up to 50 percent discount

Shop24, a popular and resourceful online marketplace, is currently running discount offers, starting from 15 percent and up to 50 percent. Moreover, the website is also

offering a buy-two-get-one free offer on its T-shirts (although the aforementioned discount offer is not applicable for this).

The shop has a vast collection of attires

and accessories, such as shoes, bags, watches, shalwar kameez suits, lawns, leggings, jeans pants, etc. Given that it's off-season, there is a huge discount on the winter clothes section.

There is a discount of 30 percent on shoes.

Visit [www.shop24.com.bd](http://www.shop24.com.bd). Find 'Shop24' on Facebook. Call 01811480835 for more information.