

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

Romance will be yours. Your charm will attract members of the opposite sex. Money may slip through your fingers. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21- MAY 21)

You need to control your temper. Romance will develop through work. Deception is apparent. Spend some time with people. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Losses are evident. Focus your efforts on details, and keep to yourself in order to finish your work. Advancement can be yours. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Changes in your residence will be favourable. Opportunities will develop through those you encounter. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Catch up on overdue paperwork. Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Talk to people. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

Be careful not to get roped. It will do you some good. You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 -OCT. 23)

Try to enlist the support of your coworkers. You may as well work on projects that will allow you to make progress. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 -NOV. 21)

You need to keep busy doing things that you both enjoy. Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22 -DEC. 21)

Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately. Nagging has never been something that you could tolerate. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22 -JAN. 20)

Get involved in fitness programs. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Your personal life is going through a state of confusion. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)

Be sure to take care of any minor ailments. You will have a childlike approach this week. You can make a difference. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 -MARCH. 20)

You could find yourself left with someone's dirty laundry. Don't try to hide your true feelings from your spouse. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SPOTLIGHT

Cleanliness for bliss

Eid-ul-Adha, one of the most auspicious days for Muslims around the globe, induces many memories in our minds. The teaching of sacrificing what is dear to you, the sharing with those who are not privileged, the sense of solidarity in the community, the wonderful food in celebration of the occasion, and, unfortunately, the stench of animal wastes rotting everywhere.

In a country where "treating someone like cattle" is an expression which implies that the cattle are treated as badly as possible, the stench is only half the problem. Staying in a congested place with hundreds of animals with large amount of wastes and fodder that are never considered as something to be kept clean, our intended sacrifices come to us already unhygienic and probably contaminated with virus, bacteria, and worms in and out. These germs and parasites make us vulnerable to many zoonotic diseases such as Salmonellosis, which leads to intestinal infection.

While many developed Muslim countries have separate indoor places with a good drainage system for ensuring a hygienic sacrifice ritual, the idea of a slaughtering place stays alien to us. We are so used to seeing the animals slaughtered right in front of our houses, with blood trails everywhere that we fail to understand the effects of this unhygienic condition on our health.

Most of us do wash and bleach the places right after the slaughter but even that is done ever so carelessly. The same happens with taking away the animal wastes. The city corporation takes away only a small fraction of the wastes while the rest are put in open places near to our habitations.

These places then become the hub of disease carrying rodents, pests and fleas

which bring the germs of rotting carcasses to our homes, making our family sick.

It is not only the wastes of our sacrifices that bring sufferings to us. The meat that we eat is often contaminated by the unhygienic process that our animals go through. While some parts of the process are irreproachable for us individuals, certain things can be done to make the Eid time cleaner and safer -

Making sure that the food which we give to the animals is healthy. It will ensure good meat.

Having a veterinarian check the animals



for possible infections before slaughter. Eating contaminated meat can infect us as well, which gets life-threatening at times.

Regularly cleaning the place where we keep the animals and keeping ticks and flies away from them.

Cleaning the animals before slaughter and also making sure that they are dry at the moment of slaughter. Wet animals tend to be more affected by contact with outside germs.

Slaughtering in a sterile place. Even though it seems impossible to keep the slaughtering place clean, the slaughtered animal has to be kept away from cow dung

and other wastes. We do not want harmful wastes to get inside the animal while it's breathing its last. Conducting the slaughtering and post-slaughter processes with professional butchers. In many families, it is a cherished tradition of the men to do the job of skinning and processing meat themselves in Qurbani Eid. Even then, they should get help from the professionals who will know how to do the job properly.

Using anti-bacterial cleaning products to wash the entire house and slaughtering place. Some places of your house might seem free from trails of blood but that does

not mean they are free from germs. A product with a more pleasing smell than regular bleach will keep the festive aura alive.

There is no doubt that Eid will become an even more joyous occasion if the people that we care about are safe and sound. Ensure your families safety by maintaining utmost cleanliness in the whole process of Qurbani.

Ultimately, cleanliness will help you in your ritual too because, keeping clean is a must in getting closer to the creator, the goal of the sacrifice.

By Afsin Ahmed

Photo Courtesy: Bengal Meat

FYI

Keeping it cool: the right refrigerator

Tired of having to store your fresh Qurbani meat in your neighbour's fridge? Or does your fridge become unusable during the months after the holy festival when it is filled to the brim with everyone from your neighbours to your guards to your maids all storing their sacrificial meat in your ice box?

If either is the case, why not buy a new fridge this month? This is the best time to do it and with Eid offers all around, you might get yourself quite a steal. And then, with the right care, you can keep your fridge running longer than most other appliances thus they can be considered quite the investment.

The first thing you need to do before settling on a brand new fridge is to get the basics right. Start off with a measure tape and figure out how much space you need. Then, see where the freezer section best fits; they can be either on top or below. The second thing you need to consider is where your refrigerator is to be placed. If you buy something too big to fit in the space you had in mind, then it is back to

the drawing board.

With all the new technology around, it is hard to understand what you need and what you do not need. Hence, do not hesitate to ask the salesman any questions that you may have. Find out how much power the unit takes to run and what kind of swing the cooler has.

Get the specifics before deciding whether the price is right or not. Comparison shopping is also important and look around because being a consumer durable, refrigerators are bought keeping the long term in one's mind. Thus, getting the right amount of information is necessary.

To get an understanding of what kind things you look for in a refrigerator, look no further than Samsung's latest model. The unit comes with energy savings, green and easy on the electricity bill. It further boasts almost no noise, an all around cooling system, an anti-bacteria protection, a fresh room to keep your meat ready to cook and dairy products healthy.

There is also an Easy Access Dispenser,

meaning water will not start suddenly leaking from the bottom as it fills up. There is also a Big Veg Box, an ice maker that works 31 percent faster than other models, a Crisper zone and a multi-storage box among other things. There is also that 10 year compressor warranty for the digital compressor that makes it so attractive.

Once you do get the right fridge, remember to make full use of it. Try not to leave too much empty space so as not to overwork your unit. Vacuum the condenser coils underneath the fridge every six months and make sure to clean the fridge to avoid the smell that fridges sometimes tend to get.

Unplug and wash with bleach when required and do not use spoon to scrape off the ice in the freezer. Let it melt out on its own.

It's refrigerator season folks, so if you need an upgrade or even another one to complement the one you have, 'tis definitely the season.

By Osama Rahman