

Close your eyes and imagine, you are sleeping on a bed, hundreds of butterflies and birds are flying around you and there are trees with green leaves and blooming flowers. Your children are playing with their favourite cartoon characters in the clouds, overwhelmed by the beauty of hot air balloons. How do you feel? Like you are in heaven, isn't it?

Now-a-days, people are keenly interested in aesthetics— they are decorating their rooms, especially living rooms and children's rooms with different kinds of flowers, trees, birds, butterflies, origami, clouds, moon and star set, 3D art installation, cartoon characters and so many crafts based on paper, ribbons, glass paints, recycled waste and many more. Paper based wall décor materials are almost new, more attractive and a popular way of decorating walls. It's a very reasonable way of reflecting one's personality, taste and choice, and as a matter of fact, today, this paper based wall decoration materials are mostly designed and prepared by the female students of Bangladesh.

Ireen Pompa, a 3rd semester student of University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB) makes paper butterflies, birds, cards, paper hearts, trees with leaves and so on as it is her both passion and hobby. After completing a two year-long course on art at Bangladesh Shishu Academy, she started making paper art to and decorate her room; then she started making paper based decors commercially.

By folding and cutting different types of coloured papers, Pompa makes colourful butterflies and birds and sells 50 pieces of multicoloured butterflies at 150 taka and 50 pieces of birds at



200 taka. "I am very happy with the demands of paper butterflies", says Pompa. She has a good number of national and international certificate for her art works.

Furthermore, Khurshida Khair, a fresh graduate of Stamford University of Bangladesh also makes different types of wall décor materials with papers. Usually, she works based on customer's order getting through her Facebook page. She basically makes paper butterflies, flying birds, trees with bunch of heart-flowers, heart chain, ball chain, moon and star set and many more items. Apart from these, she can also make colourful crafts using toilet paper rolls.

## BEAUTIFY YOUR ROOM

NILIMA JAHAN

PHOTOS: COURTESY

"I find it really very interesting to make wonderful wall decoration items from rough papers, toilet rolls and waste materials", says Khair. She sells one set of moon and stars at 200 taka, for chain ball, per chain at 70 taka, and for chain heart, per chain at 90 taka. "During Valentine's Day or a customer's birthday, we get most

all day long, sometimes I felt bored" says Akter, "But after decorating my home with flowers and butterflies, I feel really refreshed now", gladly adds Akter. These paper wall décors will enhance the beauty of home environment with a natural motif and it will reflect the inner sweet persona of anyone. With a very



of our orders", adds Khair, while asking about the demands and most effective season of getting orders.

While researching, a good number of reviews have been found from the customer's side who have decorated their living rooms, children's rooms, drawing rooms, even bathrooms with paper based wall crafts. Rehana Akter, a housewife, has decorated her room with paper materials. "Usually I have to stay at home

small amount of money, one can easily decorate his/her living room, children's room, even the dining rooms and bathrooms with such paper wall decor items. Also, if this trend flourishes, artists would be highly inspired and encouraged to make different unprecedented and uncommon wall decor materials for the customers which would result in a positive impression for the overall employment crisis for women. ■

DECOR

## HERITAGE

# THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

M H HAIDER

PHOTOS: TANWIR SERAJ / SAVE THE HERITAGE OF BANGLADESH

"You have lost a father," he said, turning to Mir Jumla's son when they brought to him the news of the Viceroy's death, "and I the greatest and most dangerous friend I had." — The Romance of an Eastern Capital.

Why did Emperor Aurangzeb deem his Viceroy in Bengal, Mir Jumla, as dangerous? So much so, it had been speculated that Aurangzeb sent Mir Jumla to Bengal partially because he wanted to keep him at a distance. And such was the reputation of Mir Jumla that many had opined it was only after his death that Aurangzeb could truly become King of Bengal.

But Mir Jumla had always been loyal. He came from Persia, in pursuit of fortune — like numerous others did. He eventually attached himself with Aurangzeb (he figured that among the brothers, it was Aurangzeb who had the most potential to ascend to the throne). Mir Jumla played a vital role in subduing the power of Shah Shuja, one of the brothers of Aurangzeb.

Dhaka was stripped of its status as a Mughal capital when Shah Shuja transferred it to Rajmahal. It was Mir Jumla who brought it back and renewed Dhaka's position.



Another grave problem the Viceroy tackled was the attacks and harassments of Arakanese and Portuguese pirates. He put strong guard regimes at strategic points — renovating and building forts to form a triangular defence strategy.

Idrakpur Fort was built by Mir Jumla in about 1660 to guard water route. It stands on the bank of dried up Ichamati River at Idrakpur, Munshiganj. Teaming with other forts, it provided protection to

The impressive platform had once been used as a mount for a high calibre cannon as well as a watch tower. The grandiosity of the fort can perhaps best be understood from this position, if we only try to imagine the fortification back in those days, with soldiers, guards, artillery and of course, the river nearby.

The fort is basically under the open sky; almost everything about it is on the exterior. And today, in an semi-rural



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Dhaka, Munshiganj and East Bengal at large.

Complete with battlemented parapets, bastions and series of holes for musketry and a gigantic circular platform, the fort itself looks very strong, robust and rather intimidating — as it should be!

Perhaps the most striking feature of this river fort is its enormous circular platform. You can enter the premises of the fort through a large, but quite simple, arched gateway. You will soon be met with a rather broad stairway that will take you to the top of the circular structure. At the end the flight of stairs, you will see a similar gate, entering through which, you will be on the top.

setting, it is a great place to visit.

Mir Jumla continued to craved for military glory; the adventurous warrior spent a bulk of time during his tenure trying to conquer Cooch Behar and Assam; although he was not entirely victorious.

His reign was for about 3 years. But in such a short span of time, he managed to do a lot for Bengal, and among them, Idrakpur Fort is arguably the crowned jewel.

Sources: The Romance of an Eastern Capital by F B Bradley-Birt and Discover the Monuments of Bangladesh by Dr Nazimuddin Ahmed.