

HOROSCOPE

LS PICK

Café Culture



ARIES
(MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

You will find your personal partner taxing today. Don't get involved in uncertain financial ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21- MAY 21)

This could be a difficult day to deal with co-workers. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Your need to be in a leadership position will help you surpass any rivals you might encounter. Be ready to explain your actions. Your lucky day will be Thursday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

You need to do more things that you enjoy. You may find that your generosity has been taken for granted. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive. Social activity with friends and relatives will be most successful. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

Concentrate on work. You won't impress anyone by being overly generous. Everything is moving quickly, just the way you like it. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 -OCT. 23)

You need time to think things through. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 -NOV. 21)

You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are more experienced. Financial affairs do not look too favourable. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22 -DEC. 21)

You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Listen to the advice given by others. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22 -JAN. 20)

Your moneymaking opportunities will flourish. Have a heart-to-heart talk with family and find out the problems. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



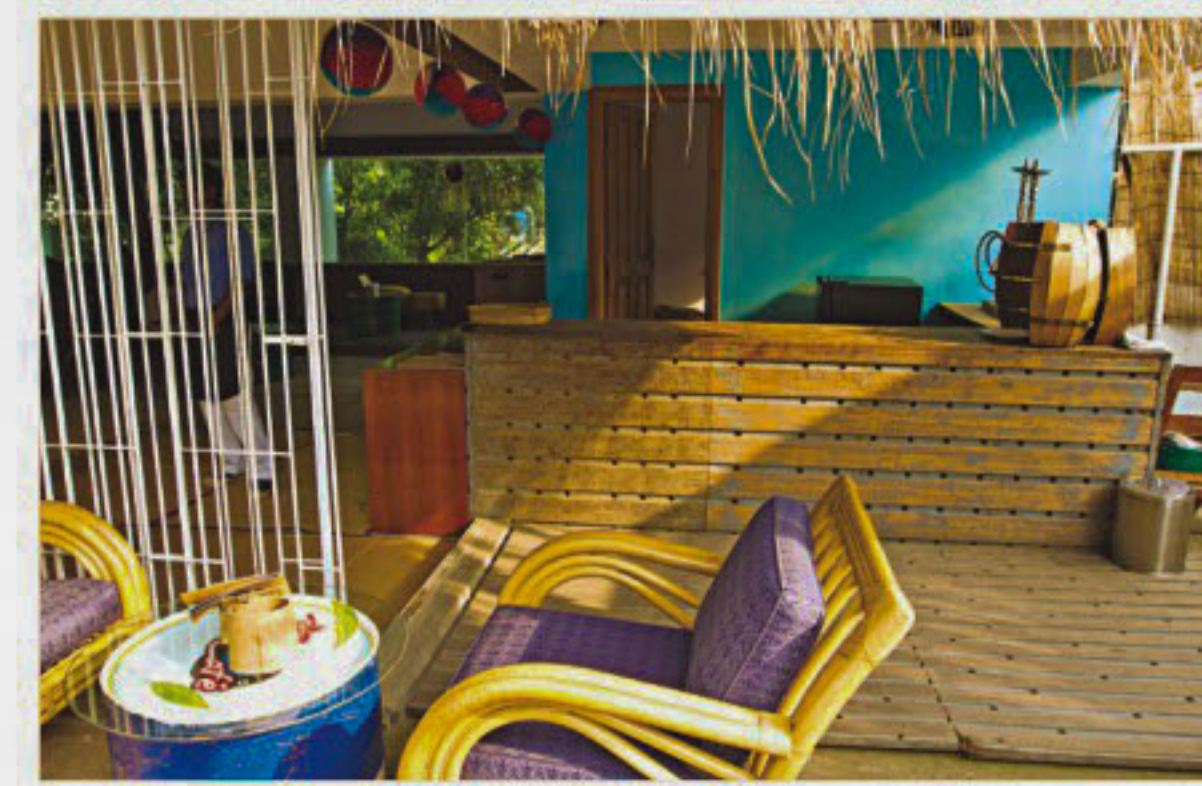
AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)

Do what's best for the people you love most. Your philanthropic contributions will bring you praise. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 -MARCH. 20)

Your ability to work with detail could help you achieve your goals. Concentrate on work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



How often do you go to a coffee shop here to sit by yourself, have a quiet cup of coffee and maybe read a book or catch up with some work? If your answer is not 'never', it is probably 'not too often' either. The coffee house culture may not have fully kicked off in Bangladesh, but it is surely starting.

Dana Speers, who works at the airport, comes to George's Café in Uttara whenever she has a break. She is a regular and all the waiters are familiar with what she wants. Speers feels comfortable in George's and does not mind sitting there on a regular basis to have some alone time. She has worked overseas in many countries and it is her general observation that one downside of being alone at a café or restaurant anywhere in the world is that you get bad service.

George's Café is one of the most popular coffee places in the city. It has the added advantage of being next to as well as affiliated with the Richmond Hotel. The hotel's lobby has a direct entry to the café and a lot of their guests walk in for a quick bite or their morning coffee at George's.

Manik Moshurul Haque, a waiter at George's Café, says on average around 15 expats drop by and most of them are usually alone and get busy working away on their own.

If you think about it, we, Bangladeshis, are not in the habit of sitting, eating or working anywhere alone because we come from such big families; we are used to being around a large group of people. We take 'the more, the merrier' a bit too seriously.

Cafés are one of the very few options we have for recreational purposes and so we look at it as a chance to have a great time with all the friends instead of just going there for the sake of the coffee.

When I approached Hridoy Islam, a long time friend, on his experience regarding time spent at cafes he became a little sad and said it brought back a bad memory. He used to be up for sitting by himself, ordering something light and working on his laptop at any café, but one day he ran into one of his friends and on seeing him there, working alone, she said, 'Aww!', and gave him a hug. That was the last time he ever went to a café alone.

Not just in cafes but we get looks if we

eat alone at a restaurant, watch a movie or sometimes, even shop by ourselves. This is a general perspective that people have developed that in order to have a good time, or be happy, you need to be in the company of at least another person. Honestly, I feel that this thought is what is sad.

because he spent years abroad in the UK and so he knows how normal it is.

Borno is also treated like family at North End so he does not even need to be there with anyone else.

Of course there is nothing wrong in being out for coffee alone. In fact, if you do it once, you



However, all the judgment and looks do not bother everyone. At North End, I met Nasim Borno. Borno, a photographer for Prothom Alo, was sitting by himself and working on his laptop. He says he is absolutely fine doing that but he thinks it is

will find that it is one of the greater things in life - enjoying being in your own company. So try it sometime. You might be shot with some sad looks, but just pretend you do not see them.

By Maesha Nuzhat Nazmul
Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

