

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21- APRIL 20)

In relationships, think young behaviour: impulsive, enthusiastic, bold, easily excited and playful. But they can also be selfish, argumentative, domineering and high-strung. Aries people tend to get bored easily.



TAURUS
(APR. 21- MAY 21)

Taurus people love good food and anything that pleases the senses. With a Taurus, make sure to be well-groomed. Their symbol is the bull; if he has fixed his sights on you, he'll be tough to shake.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

These are some of the friendliest, most positive and interesting people around but the intellectuals among them are hard to pin down. If you're in love with a Gemini, you'd better let him/her do lots of talking.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

They are most alive than being in relationships. They love to take care of others. They are naturally protecting and providing. But they can be fickle and unpredictable, almost bipolar.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Leos are driven to achieve. They long for power. They like to be in charge. They are looking for a partner who, like them, is also very impressive and living life out loud. Leos love to show their affection in big, passionate, romantic displays.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23 -SEPT. 23)

The thing a Virgo is most attracted to in a romantic candidate is their mind. They have quick minds themselves and endless interests, and so want a partner who can keep up, and challenge them, with stimulating conversation, and playful repartee.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24 -OCT. 23)

They're indulgent and adore anything having to do with beauty and art. They like the finer things in life. They must have tons of friends and activities. Libra women are said to be the most beautiful. Libra men are said to have very refined.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24 -NOV. 21)

They are deep, soulful, extremely mysterious and wildly passionate. But you can get confused as to who your Scorpio man/woman really is at the core. And speaking of their core, watch out – it can seem like a seething, hot centre of molten magna.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22 -DEC. 21)

Being an archer, men born with the sun, moon, or rising sign are your classic 'alpha males' in relationships (while the women are 'alpha females'). They are an adventurous lot who can be philosophical at times.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22 -JAN. 20)

They're born very serious and responsible, but get more and more easygoing and carefree with time. Capricorns are known for their slow and steady progress. They are happiest when they have settled down.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21 -FEB. 19)

Crazy, brilliant, individualistic to the point of being eccentric, idealistic to the point of dreaminess, An Aquarius is never dull. It takes time for a Saturn-ruled Aquarius to get into a relationship – let alone fall in love. But once they do, they don't let go easily.



PISCES
(FEB. 20 -MARCH. 20)

People born under the sign of Pisces live for love. Pisces long for union and deep connection. No matter how nice this sounds, it can be detrimental at times. If you are a Pisces, make sure you are not rushing into a relationship.

LS PICK

Weddings A-hoy

From an outside perspective, weddings here in Bangladesh appear to be the epitome of glamour – and they are. In comparison to Western weddings, they are usually more ostentatious, as culture and tradition dictates. Brides are swathed not in ivory but bold, bright reds, and grooms are dressed in equally stunning outfits.

There are, of course, differences in the events themselves.

Bangladeshi weddings are split into four main ceremonies: two gaaye holuds for the bride and groom, the wedding itself, and the reception. It is becoming increasingly common nowadays to combine the two gaaye holuds into one huge event for both wedding parties, but that does not for a second detract from the effort put in to the festivities marking this momentous occasion.

Bangladeshi weddings have a certain charm, perhaps because these are centuries-old ceremonies steeped in culture. There's a sense of predictability – not that that's a bad thing – which is comforting and familiar.

The gaaye holud will most likely be dominated by warm hues such as yellows and oranges echoing the turmeric paste that lends its name to the ceremony, with garlands of marigolds adorning the dais, and dance routines to cheesy 90s Hindi songs that people pretend to cringe at but secretly can't get enough of.

The wedding itself is extravagant beyond comparison. The bride's outfit is usually some shade of red, be it a vivid vermilion or a more subdued but equally glamorous scarlet embellished with thousands beads and sequins that sparkle brighter than a clear night's sky.

Weddings and kachhi are almost synonymous with each other. If you're invited to your mother's second cousin's eldest son's wedding ceremony, you'll inevitably find yourself agreeing to go purely for the food. There is a stark contrast here with Western weddings whereby abroad, you may be served three delicate courses of beautifully plated food. It's not so much the case here where instead you'll see white-clad waiters zooming around tables with platters heaped with our beloved kachhi biriyani, and plates of roast chicken and kebabs, topped off with the quintessential pastel green glass of borhani. It may not be to everyone's taste but it's a wedding staple and will remain so for many more years to come.

The wedding reception, or bou bhaat, follows soon after and while it is a slightly toned-down version of its preceding ceremony, it is still very much another flashy affair where the happy couple get a chance to properly mingle with their guests.

The cost of lavish weddings will come to several lakhs, although you'd have to be planning something beyond



extraordinary if you go into double-digits. Nevertheless, the price tag is inconsequential when it comes to paying for the happiest day of your life.

Bangladeshi weddings that are held abroad are naturally going to be different to local ones. Expenditure-wise, you may find that the cost of a bridal sari or lehenga and matching jewellery sets is significantly higher than it would be here in Bangladesh. Catering abroad relies on traditional Indian menus, instead of the typical 'deshi' spreads you associate with weddings. Kachhi, the mainstay of Bangladeshi weddings, is replaced with lightly spiced rice and accompanied by steaming baskets of naan, with various curries and chutneys crowding your table. Having your wedding abroad also means you lose some of the little quirky traditions that define our concept of biye'ronushthan.

It's hard to put a finger on what it is exactly that makes weddings abroad slightly more sober than our ones here. That's not to say that one is better than the other, but it is an observation held by many people that unless it is held on Bangladeshi soil, 'deshi' ceremonies will always lack that certain je ne sais quoi. Having said that, in the grand scheme of things, the location is a mere detail, and whether you get married in Bangladesh, or America, or the UK, or anywhere else, the important thing is the happiness of the bride and groom.

It's a time when families come together from all four corners of the globe to celebrate. They sing, they dance, and they eat until they can't sing and dance anymore. Even if you are abroad, for those few days it's like you're transported back to Bangladesh, and there's no better feeling.

By Zahrah Haider

