

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

Don't force your opinions on others unless you are prepared to lose. Involve yourself in group endeavours. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Your partner may misunderstand you but communication can solve problems. You can invest in profitable ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Intimate relationships with colleagues will lead to gossip and cause problems. Problems with appliances will drive you crazy. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Relationships will be emotional this week. Take part in stimulating debates that will allow you to show off your intelligence. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Try to be reasonable. Curb any jealous fits if your partner has been flirting with someone else. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Travel will promote new romantic encounters and additional cultural knowledge. You should look into a healthier diet. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

You will have the discipline to make necessary changes. You will have good ideas for home improvement projects. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Difficulties with someone you live with is likely. You can learn if you listen to older or more experienced people. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22 -DEC. 21)

You need to do more research before you make your final decision. This is a great day to get out. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. Make contributions to any organization that you join. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Avoid too much discourse with colleagues this week. You may want to make changes in your home environment. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MARCH. 20)

Exotic destinations beckon you. Don't be afraid to talk to close friends or relatives about personal problems. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

MUSING

Eid Day Magic

Eid is almost here and there is a lot to be thankful for. First of all, the streets are going to be empty and for anyone living through countless hours of Dhaka traffic, that is one of the best things about Eid. Think about it; you can go Need for Speed on that rickshaw near you. Of course, there is a slight possibility that you'll get mugged but hey, life is for the adventures, right?

There is no doubt that Eid brings with it lots of good things. Visiting every branch and leaf of your entire family tree and greeting every person on sight are some of the more obvious things attached to every Eid day. You will have splendid conversations with people who do not know who you are, or cannot remember anymore but still wish to listen to you speak and repeatedly ask you to repeat what you had just said. Other things that will definitely happen to you this Eid include getting stuffed and force fed till you feel like you are about to implode on to yourself like a neutron star. You will come across people who are trying really hard to pull off a fashionable outfit but failing miserably. Guess what, hoody panjabis are NOT in when its so hot outside.

But wait, there's more. The lack of starvation is sure to bring some of your friends back to life. Those English speaking friends of yours who never usually speak in Bengali will dive into a one-day-pool of Bengali words. You will watch Bengali pranks and television shows following that genre, "we are not a comedy or drama but its Eid so I'm happy." The bucket load of panjabis that you'll get will be in many sizes and in questionable designs. They will definitely be non-refundable but hopefully, flammable.

And let's not forget, the amount of car rallies that you'll come across on Eid day. They are bound to leave you a little scarred.

So why are we so crazy about Eid if it is full of fails? Some would say it's the food and I can definitely see that as being one of the best parts of my Eid day. My parents both cook traditional Bengali dishes together every Eid morning which makes



waking up at 6 am worth it when you have 'murgir roast with roti' waiting for you. For others, it's an opportunity to spend some quality time with friends. I guess I get that a little too. Most of my every day friends now either work with me or study law with me. I don't get to see my old school friends ever except maybe on Eid day. It gives people an opportunity to walk down memory lane

and think about the good old days.

For me, Eid is always a let down until we all gather at my 'boro mamas'. Sitting down just us fathers, uncles, cousins, aunts all together, talking, otherwise fosters a form of collective harmony that we hardly see; it is worth it. Seeing everyone as happy as you are, for no particular reason, makes you realise that this holiday is a lot more than

just about you. That it's all part of a much bigger picture. As you put down your cup of coffee - in slow motion - having poured your heart out, you hear roars in the distance. 'I swear to god, if one more dude with a car rallies past our road, I'm gonna end him.'

By Naveed Naushad
Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Small acts of piety

It is important to remember that the festivities of Eid are not just about our nearest and dearest, but serve also an opportunity to share the joy with all those who help us in our day to day lives. There are many such people we can find who all contribute to making our lives that much easier, in their own ways.

Eid is a great time to recognise these individuals who are often times forgotten. A little effort on your part will not only make the occasion festive for them too but will also give you a sense of fulfillment. Handing out Eid gifts to the less fortunate ones working for us is common now, as it is to be expected. And indeed many of us will opt to give Eid attires to those who work for us, but instead of choosing an attire for them, why not take the time out of your busy schedule and take them shopping?

It will be a special treat for them and they will certainly love the whole experience. The happiness on their faces, as you buy their special Eid dress of choice, will be priceless!

Do not leave your house help all by

themselves while you take your family on a post-Eid outing. Family is bound by kinship and not only blood. It does not have to be anywhere particularly special - take them out for ice cream! Try to give their wards the same privileges that our children enjoy, even if it is for a day or two! Eid should be a day when everyone is treated the same; the embraces are to be exchanged regardless of class and creed, so why not maintain the same spirit throughout the day?

We meet familiar faces everyday while we commute - the same children selling flowers and candies for a living. Try and imagine how Eid can be for them. With a small effort on your part, it can truly be different this year.

Rather than buying chocolates and knickknacks from superstores, buy those from them just to boost their sale. Remember, these children have chosen to work hard for money in a dignified manner. Respect that and reward them for their work. This will only encourage them to work harder and your little boost can have long-lasting effects.

Lastly, remind yourself to tip the cleaners and menial staff at your workplace. They probably will never ask for money, but a small gesture for their yearlong effort will surely leave a positive impression. Plus, it will show them that you do remember and appreciate their efforts. Who doesn't like a little appreciation?

If you are shy to hand over money, buy things for them. Gifts can never go wrong and even the smallest of trinkets shows that you cared enough to make the effort. That is what counts, after all.

Consider these acts not as a form of charity; take them as your social obligation. By making small amends, you can truly bring happiness to people's lives. And in a world that is slowly becoming unrecognisable, empathy will play a role in your lives as well.

Eid, and the month of Ramadan itself, is an opportunity to practice piety and to think about others. During Eid, continue this by being cordial with those around you.

By Mormee Mahtab