

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

Younger relatives may seek your advice. Take action to eliminate the tension. Be sure to use your charm. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Do not expect too much. Do not overindulge in anyway. Your contributions will be valued and helpful. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

Expect to feel confused about personal prospects. Take part in debates. Your colleagues could be inconsiderate. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Try to visit loved ones. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Get involved in hobbies. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG 22)

Try to take charge in group functions. Get yourself back on track. Overindulgence may be a problem. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Try not to delve with finance now. Emotional deception will cause friction. Take care when dealing with older relatives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Do not bother getting even. Try not to socialise with clients this week. Stabilise your own position by locking up your savings. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

You should look into a healthier diet. Keep your cash in your pocket. Try to keep any mood swings under control. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You can expect opposition at work. Investments may not be as lucrative as you thought. Good week for romance. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Make decisions about your future goals. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. Be fair, not colourful. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Make special plans. You may have difficulties finishing projects you start. Your creativity could lead you down new avenues. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MARCH. 20)

Colleagues may undermine you. Take advantage of your good fortune. Check out prestigious groups that interest you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

MUSING

The Wows and Woes of winter

I hate winter but if there is one thing that can make us desert our cocoon of warmth and comfort under a heavy quilt, it is badminton. Playing the game on sodium bulb-lit streets with the sweet smell of 'bhapa pitha' wafting from a nearby home is a scene we are familiar with. Yet, for most of us there is more to this sport than the plunge of rackets and loss of countless corks.

Badminton is a sport that highlights skill and dexterity over brute strength. Yet when is the last time you can recall going out in the field or the street to enjoy a good game with your racket and shuttlecock?

Residing in a male-dominated society, the number of women playing badminton is still relatively low, despite the immense popularity of the sport among both genders. Once winter arrives, we are over-enthusiastic to hit the streets and showcase our hidden talent based on agility and speed. Nevertheless, often the discouraging remarks from the other gender and even our own forestall us from ever being seen in a badminton court.

Have you ever wondered why such a notion continues to exist in society, today? Is it the age old misconception that sports are only for men? Why is it so difficult to accept that females are equally capable of playing sports and even excelling in them?



People such as Sania Mirza, Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova have carved their names in history from playing sports. Whereas, the girls in our society still cannot receive an environment safe and welcoming enough to play badminton.

It was only a few days back when my friend was sharing how the boys in her apartment building play badminton on the street, while she watches quietly from her balcony. In doing so she is filled with both awe and envy. The amazement comes from admiring the beauty of how the sport can be both physically and

spiritually relaxing. It helps to reduce stress and is a great way to socialise. The envy is due to the unsettling fact that she, like the rest of us, is deprived of such opportunity.

While I sit back, my racket remains untouched, gathering dust from another passing day of winter. But, tomorrow is a new day with renewed spirit and hope maybe I will finally take my racket out for a spin beneath the starry night of Dhaka city. I hope you do too.

By Mayesha Raidah

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

MAN TO MAN

Don't be a New Year nuisance

The beginning of a New Year gives prominence to a few distinct groups of human beings who on even their best days are terribly annoying. Coupled with a hang-over, the start to almost every year becomes the worst experience just for the presence of the aforementioned individuals. Thankfully though, they are easy to categorise and hence easy to identify, thus becoming easy to rip out from the very core of your lives.

The first group among them are the Resolution Makers. The Resolution Makers make it a point to plan out whatever stupid thing they are planning on doing for the entire year. It usually involves overcoming some fear, confronting some childhood bully or trying out a new cuisine like it's a big deal. None of what they plan to do bear any importance to anyone's life, including their own.

Resolution Makers also tend to lean towards what they believe to be 'self-improvement'. Once a Resolution Maker

thinks he has completed a resolution, expect to be greeted with expectations of approval and desperate pleas for attention. Stop making resolutions. There is no point in having a written reminder of your failures.

The second group which should by all rights be outlawed are the Achievement Unlockers. Like the Resolution Makers, The Achievement Unlockers begin every year by reliving everything that they have done in the last year.

Most of their Achievements are pretty mundane, like marriage, good grades, promotions, etc. These go-getters are the worst of the worst because their thirst is not quenched by success alone but rather by boring people with essays about how they did what they did and why they did.

At this point Achievement Unlockers are wont to point out all of the hurdles they had to cross and how hard their journey was and how they have a lot more to do in the future. We get it; you guys do things. Now shut the hell up and

do them.

The last group, among many unnamed, are the Cry Babies Getting Grown. Basically, these are adults who moan and gripe about all their trials and tribulations.

This group of people hardly have friends, because let us be honest, no one cares about anyone else's problems, least of all people who have their own problems i.e. all of us.

The Cry Babies make a list of all the ways they have had a terrible year and then outline how they are going to be optimistic and have faith in God and Karma and all other kinds of self-fed excuses to dodge the real issue of their lack of social skills and general talent.

A New Year is a great time to actually sit back and think of all the people you can do without; there are plenty of them and the pool keeps growing every year.

By Osama Rahman