

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APRIL 20)

Prepare to make compensations. Changes in your domestic situation will be. Travel with your partner. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Focus on your objectives. Courses dealing with psychology will be of interest. Tie up loose ends before moving forward. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUNE 21)

You will be in an overly generous mood. Join a choir. Take time to invest in charity. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.



CANCER
(JUNE 22-JULY 22)

Lighten up your serious attitude. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. Keep your cool in confrontations. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.



LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Pay attention to small details. Chances for romantic connections are in the works. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week is Monday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 23)

Avoid disputes that will lead to estrangements. Try not to get backed into corners. Plan social events. Your lucky day this week is Friday.



LIBRA
(SEPT. 24-OCT. 23)

Spend time with family. Better to hold your silence than speak in arguments. Find ways to relieve stress immediately. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Go out and socialise. You can expect resistance on the home front. Be careful regarding expenditures. Your lucky day this week is Wednesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You're in the mood to party. Enjoy taking courses or lecturing others. Your efforts are rewarded handsomely. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Find creative ways to make money. Do more things that you enjoy. Try not to be so demonstrative. Your lucky day this week is Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Working from home will be benefitting. Do something energetic and different. Be creative in your efforts. Your lucky day this week is Saturday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MARCH 20)

Don't get depressed, get busy. Accomplish more through dedication. Children are not as accepting as you have been. Your lucky day this week is Sunday.

LS EDITOR'S NOTE

Life of the party

My friend is a brilliant orator; even her most illogical arguments seem reasonable because of how she narrates them. She is the soul of all our gatherings, and inadvertently, her most favourite topic of conversation happens to be vociferous political rantings; which, in the moment, seem plausible or correct to even the otherwise least impressed.

But what I love most about her is how eloquently she recites verses, poetry, couplets; her powerful voice and her animated spirit bring to life the poets' thoughts for us. She is one brilliant story-teller. Always on an extra dose of adrenaline — she loves life to its core, and her life-force is contagious.

However, this sweet soul, who is culturally so rich and highly knowledgeable and well read, has recently been ruined by acquiring the most blood cringing habits us common people have all absorbed. Spending half of the adda time or outings by taking pictures, instructing others on striking the correct poses, then a few minutes of cursing if there is no Wi-Fi, or if her 4G speed is somehow compromised, and another few minutes on writing a huge 'mini' blog to go with the photos, and then uploading them.

And all these activities must be done

then and there, as if she is in competition with some invisible socialite. Once her self-dictated task is done, she just wants out, and in her illogically logical manner, justifies how she must go home right away — thus killing the adda!

When the soul of the adda is gone, everything else becomes, how should I put it, just not that fun anymore.

Now, if I may analyse the behaviour of my friend, I can safely say that 99 percent of us do this; we just get together to take photos and upload them and rush off to the next engagement. We no longer sit to listen to our friends, sing a Tagore, recite a verse from Gintanjali, or even play-act a few romantic odes to Amit and Labanya from Shesher Kobita. These practices of touching our roots and appreciating our culture, or any other culture for that matter, are almost extinct. Our cultural senses have gone numb, as if someone injected an anaesthetic; we tap to bhangras, but find a cello rendition at our 'deshi' wedding, or engagements boring.

Culture, I always feel, is geographically bound, yes, we do and we can appreciate all cultures of the world, but not at the cost of losing touch with one's own.

We must understand and inject Lalon's lyrics, or Nazrul's rebellious writings and

the life of Tagore's literature into our children. At the same time, introduce them to Nemesis and Arbovirus, or Ayub Bachchu and James. They must know the dramatist Jamil Ahmed, and the brilliant poet Kaiser Huq, or read Maa by Anisul Haque.

Humayun Ahmed, Zafar Iqbal, Shamsur Rahman have cult followings with us, just like Jibananda, Bankim or Narayan Gangopadhyay had, and we can reintroduce them back into our lives and our children's as well.

We must take what's ours wholeheartedly and then appreciate other cultures. #DeshiFirst and #DeshiAlways!

This year, Star Lifestyle, in its most humble manner, is trying hard to make our readers reach out to all things local — be it fashion, culture, cuisine, literature, or as mundane a thing as deshi toys.

So, the next time when my friend comes over for those yummy tiny shingaras that sell in the alley behind my house, I will treat her to tong er cha and give her a sugar high, and ask her to recite something, anything!

This week, Star Lifestyle is bringing to you its first instalment of four back to back month-long Baishakh joy and fun.

— RBR

LS PICK

Zoom in for a better future

When Evergreen Zoom Bangladesh Foundation started its first school in 2016, it had just 13 students and about 50 volunteers. Today, the organisation runs five schools with approximately 450 students and more than a 1000 volunteers.

That's 450 underprivileged and vulnerable children - living in the slums, or even worse, the streets - brought under the enlightenment of education.

Zoom Bangladesh School is not just free, but provides free books and stationary and a meal as well.

The foundation operates schools in Segunbagicha, Hatirjheel, and in the High Court and Central Shaheed Minar areas in Dhaka; and one in Gaibandha.

ST Shahin Prodhan, founder and CEO, said that the Hatirjheel branch follows the primary school curriculum, while the rest focus on providing basic education and moral and cultural education. Moreover, the Segunbagicha school also provides computer training.

To build up the self-esteem of these marginalised children - to make them feel that they are a part of something - the schools also supply proper uniforms.

The foundation also organises programmes on special occasions, where the students partake in cultural activities. Moreover, the foundation also runs other projects like tree plantations and blood donations.

"One of our goals is to establish a shel-



ter home for street children," Prodhan said. "They are a very vulnerable group. And as they do not have any particular house, they sometimes move about, thus making it difficult for us to retain and educate them for a long periods of time. A shelter home has the promise of resolving these issues."

Currently, funding chiefly comes from the volunteers and local citizens, he further informed, saying that the organisation can expand and actualise its dreams if it gets better funds.

What you can do

Get involved. Become a volunteer. No feeling is better than the satisfaction of helping the poor and underprivileged. And who doesn't enjoy spending time with children! On the other hand, you may also make a donation to the organisation.

For more info, find them on Facebook and YouTube. Address: 22 Segunbagicha (5th floor). Contact number: 01739801419. Email: ezbfoundation@gmail.com

By M H Haider

Photo: Evergreen Zoom Bangladesh Foundation