

# Tea with Biskut

Wavy hair in a bun, a full beard, inquisitive eyes and a toothy grin is the easiest way to describe Biskut Abir in a nutshell. Whilst many remain unaware of the artist, his company, Biskut Factory, is known by niche art connoisseurs for the iconic rickshaw art work that they do on everyday products like helmets, cups, mugs, mobile covers and their most popular — the rickshaw art printed sunglass frames.

They say it takes a village to raise a child, which is exactly what Biskut is doing with the help of local artistes, to revive the lost Bangladeshi culture through his company, “Biskut Factory’s self-identity is local and Bangladeshi. It took me to time to realise that my country is my responsibility. The entire globe is my home, but wherever I choose to reside, it is my job to utilise local resources of that particular region and give back. In today’s world, no one teaches you these things, neither society nor parents,” says Biskut.

Biskut Factory is currently in the midst of experimenting with different forms of work, and not just be restrained within the world of rickshaw art alone. Thus, it does not come as a surprise that their forthcoming work focuses on clothing and home décor.

Similarly, Biskut the artist also believes

that the flourishing business is a means to develop relationships with people by providing them optimum customer service. “No customisation requests are small or pointless. I’m not in the business of profit-ing. If it is important to the customer, so it is to me,” says Biskut.

As Biskut enthusiastically discusses his current clothing line in the works, it becomes apparent that as an artist, it is better to let him show rather than ask about what’s new with Biskut Factory. As he says, “Art is life, but without life, there is none. So, it is the most precious thing in the world to an individual. Art is also not just for the artist, but those who acknowledge and appreciate it.”

The founder’s achievements are currently focused on engaging the youth and young aspiring artists. “If my work with Biskut Factory makes another artist feel like he can do it better than me or inspires them to come with something more innovative, then, my own goals have been fulfilled,” he said.

**By Supriti Sarkar**

**Photo: Biskut Factory**

Check out their page: <https://www.facebook.com/biskutfactory/>  
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## BY THE WAY

# Share our blessings...

As they say in the movies, weddings are once-in-a-lifetime affair and there’s nothing in the world we wouldn’t do to celebrate our nuptials in the most exclusive manner so that everyone we are associated with in this lifetime remembers the event for the rest of theirs!

Similarly, wedding gifts are an important part of this extremely important occasion as it helps couples get started on their future life together, with a little less stress on their wallets.

What if neither the bride nor the groom wanted another microwave or a blender or even more cash? Because there was enough already and no extra room for clutter! So, wouldn’t the best idea be to use this opportunity to make an impact by doing a noble deed, such as ‘help change lives’ instead.

Wondering how?

...By foregoing the traditional wedding gift process and replacing it with a donation from friends and family.

This is a very common concept in the western world, and has been recently begun in Bangladesh by Tayyeba Nasir, HR Manager UNICEF Indonesia, Malaysia and Timor Leste, when she had her son’s wedding in Bangladesh in July 2019.

“Honestly speaking, I was a little worried about the gifts as the new couple had already planned on everything beforehand

and didn’t need it,” explained Nasir.

She went on to say, “Then the idea struck me — as to why not use this occasion, as an opportunity to collect donations from the guests who were planning to gift anyway, and use it towards a beneficial cause such as the Rohingya children, or any other major children’s concern existent in our society via UNICEF Bangladesh.

And fascinatingly enough, the UNICEF Fundraising & Partnerships Specialist Zahid-ul Hassan appreciated the idea and agreed

in piloting the donation process together, at my son’s wedding.”

Nasir continued to portray that the outcome was fruitful as everyone appreciated the idea, contributing their share in the donation box.

“We also set up a separate website for the wedding donation where invitees could go online and contribute,” informed Nasir.

Surely, this virtuous initiative, which has seen a successful pilot just a few days back, is expected to see frequent recur-

rences in the future. And UNICEF Bangladesh is trying to make sure the repetition to the noble cause persists, by building a connection with the event management team in the country and encouraging them to allow a similar option at future weddings, with the permission of their clients.

Hassan justified the development by making an interesting remark, “The most important thing what we wanted to do through this event is to start a trend of supporting good cause where the millennials get involved directly, as an active global citizen. We believe, from this initiative the youngsters would learn that it is up to them to create a liveable and sustainable society for everyone. After all everyone needs to know that -- we are the change we want to see.”

All in all, what can be said is that this may be a fresh outlook to the future, where we tag along a social cause in everything that we do from birthday parties to wedding anniversaries, and share our joy more meaningfully. And maybe someday everyone in the world would be a little better off because we chose to share our blessings on all our special days.

**By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury**  
**Photo: B. A. Sujon/UNICEF/Map**

