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Life

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COFFEE dependent, totally

▶ **METHOD IN THE MADNESS
STYLING YOUR MANE P3**

▶ **ONE COLOUR MANY SHADES
UNDERSTANDING COFFEE COLOURS C**

▶ **DEFINING THE WINTER DISH
SOUP FOR THE SOUL P9**

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED ● SPECIAL THANKS TO SABIKUN NAHAR – PROPRIETOR, HEAD STYLIST AT HAIRBAR DHAKA ● MODELS: TADMIRA HAQUE, DARIMEE AZMAL
HAIR & MAKEUP: HAIRBAR DHAKA ● LOCATION: HAIRBAR GULSHAN 2

**সুরক্ষিত দেয়াল
নিরাপদ পরিবার**

এলো বার্জার ব্রিড ইজি ভাইরাকেরয়ার। এর সিলভার আয়ন
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Farzi Café — Take your taste bud on a heavenly ride

Bored of regular pizza and pasta? A lazy afternoon cheeseburger doesn't cut it anymore? Yearning for a more familiar taste to tantalise your taste buds? Then look no further because Farzi Café — an amalgamation of traditional global cuisine, with an Indian touch, modern presentation culinary styles, and ambience — is the ideal place to go.

Nestled at the heart of the city, and located within a 30-second way from Gulshan-1 circle, international chain, Farzi Café, had its inauguration in Dhaka on 8 January, 2021.

Redefining the modern 'Spice Bistro' by preparing food through a scientific (colloidal) system, where ingredients go through molecular gastronomy process, the café is transforming traditional cuisine into a modern sensory experience.

Farzi Cafe commenced its journey in 2014, intending to bring Indian and traditional cuisine back in vogue. It is now having a successful run in eight countries including Bangladesh, the UK, UAE, India, etc.

With their versatility in the menu you can choose dishes and beverages, which would hit your taste bud and mood perfectly. A must-try from Farzi is their 'mutton irrachi pepper fry,' which is boneless shredded mutton, cooked with curry leaves, coconut and black pepper, with Malabari paratha on the sides.

The owner of this new venture, Rashadul



Hossain Chowdhury, said, "This is an ideal restaurant for vegetarians, or anyone craving for a fusion cuisine. The blending of Indian subcontinent cuisines with that of western cuisines like Italian, Spanish is there."

'Rawa kasundi fish' with 'xo jhal moorie' is one of their signature dishes, where semolina crusted fish is flavoured with Bengal mustard, pan fried and served with puffed rice and ghee polao.

If these all do not interest you, you can always go for their kebabs and biryanis.

Farzi Café offers you 'tandoori malai cauliflower,' which is clay oven roasted cauliflower with almond, cream and cardamom, topped with parmesan cheese and toasted crumbs.

For biryani, you can try out their 'Nizami

tarkari biriyani' with a touch of Indian spices served with curd and 'papad crisp'.

There's more! Farzi offers you equally appealing desserts and beverages to bless your tastebuds with one hell of a ride. Their 'chocolate dirt pile' with textures of chocolate, vanilla ice-cream and hot chocolate will take you on a world of chocolates that your sweet-tooth always craved for. You can try their 'Italian smooch,' which bear some magical quality to get rid of your exhaustion right away. One sip is all it takes to have it answered.

The key feature of Farzi Café is its presentation of food, which exactly mirrors the taste of its fusion cuisine. Their art of presentation with stellar lights in the décor and soothing music in the background

would add wholesome aesthetic value to the already excellent dining experience, leaving any visitor awestruck.

Rashadul Hossain mentioned, "At Farzi Cafe, our diners will get to experience familiar cuisines with a completely new twist, taking into account the artistic, technical and social aspect of food. The experience is sure to be a treat to all the senses, something which is yet to be introduced by our contemporaries."

So, put Farzi Café on your go-to-places and experience the unapologetic mix that still suits every palate.

Essentials

Tower of Akash, 54 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan 1, Dhaka

Valet Parking: Available

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/FarziDhaka>

By Tahmid Azad Sohan
Photo Courtesy: Farzi Cafe

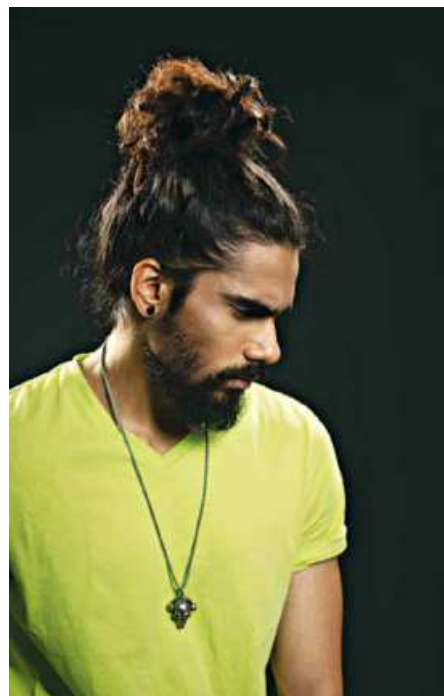
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ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন ঝুপচাঁয় আভিজাত্য মানেই

অ্যান্ডালিনা

সোপ

ঝুপচাঁয় আভিজাত্য...



#FASHION

Hairstyles to get the groove on

In a year that has generally been nothing short of surprises in every way, it has been quite an eventful journey for the hair follicles of men as many of us have decided to let our hair grow, all the way through the sides to beyond shoulder length. As visits to the barbershops have been largely minimised and most of us still cooped up inside our homes, many men have decided to forgo maintaining their mane, allowing nature to dictate its course.

Growing long hair gives us a new perspective of self-awareness and reinvention as we gear towards navigating a sense of style that personifies us in the flesh, body, and yes, hair!

Style is after all contingent on who you are, what you are, and how you carry yourself. Most men have a natural inclination towards long hair, especially

when it's healthy and grown out (in proper length) with care and planning.

The hair knows what the hair wants

The head of waves will grow overtime and there is nothing you can do about it, except ignore it. That newfound hair length, however, needs to be cut and trimmed in accordance to one's sense of panache and confidence.

Realistically, long hair suits those who have medium to thick hair for the hair to grow long and wavy. Curly hair is great as well, especially when the locks drop out while the hair still grows.



To sport a smart and breezy look for all seasons, without the hassle of tying or setting up a bun, *Naped Tidiness* is the hairstyle for you. Trendy due to being adopted by the likes of Star War's Kylo Ren, Adam Driver, this hairstyle seems masterly and purposeful when the hair starts falling down instead of haphazardly growing out in all directions.

It is an open secret: everyone digs Timothée Chalamet and surely, his curls play a role in his appeal to whoever sees him. *The Chalamet* hairstyle is one in fashion and the ideal starter for those who wish to keep their curls by growing the top hair first, keeping the back, and sides at two-and-half inches in stylish layer cut.

Full Flow is the hairstyle that can be perfectly coordinated with anyone's wishes of style as we let the thick and wavy hair take its course to grow at its own pace, exactly as it fits on the person wearing it. Common amongst surfers, and skateboarders, this is a generally considered to be a carefree hairstyle worn by men, but does require some maintenance, with proper conditioning to ensure the thickness of the hair itself. Not just pleasing to look at, it will not be an uncommon occurrence to have your fingers or someone else's running through the wavy thickness of your hair once in a while.

Mid-length longer hair, which measures to the length of four to five inches, is a low-maintenance look that is worth looking at. Having the chill surfer-like vibes, this look is personified by the Internet's favourite celebrity, Keanu Reeves. The sides have to be cut shorter than the back to give the cool adventurer-type look. When Keanu does it, who can truly resist?

The *Afro* is easily the best hairstyle for men anywhere with its iconic imagery, associated with history's great entertainers like Prince and Michael Jackson. Products can be used to enhance the curls if one does not have naturally curly hair measuring up to two to three inches.

Now, not everyone wants hair hanging over the shoulder. For some people, long hair can be spiked, letting it stand up on its roots with short cuts to the sides. This hairstyle, named *The Morrissey*, nicknamed after the famed musician-vocalist himself, allows anyone to sport it in a formal or informal setting as the hair is kept at mid-length allowing one to be simply at ease in all settings.

Nourishment is the key

As with health of the body and mind, hair does need to be nourished properly to ensure its vitality in the longer run. It is important to invest in a quality shampoo and conditioner to keep the growing hair strong and glossy, allowing it to steal the show anywhere, be it at home, university, workplace, or the occasional visits to the gym or beach. Shampoo is not a daily necessity, while proper condition is in line with what suits your hair best.

Shearing off dead ends and trimming the parts you deem unsuitable must be done frequently. If you are planning to sport a beard, do make sure it is trimmed well to go well with your hairstyle. Strategize your timings well in sync with the look of preference.

Different combs must be used for combing hair to get that perfect hairdo. For example, wide-toothed comb is needed for Afro hair styling. In terms of gelling the hair to give it a particular shape, proper gels must be bought to texturize the hair hold in order to look good. Scalp has always been a thorn in the side of having a good hair day, hence hair needs to be kept soft, healthy, and shiny with the proper oils for the overall nourishment of your hairstyles.

Let the mane grow with proper nourishment and care. Sport the look.

By Israr Hasan

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Amit

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Because 'boys will be boys'

Rape is the easiest of all crimes and most probably the laxest too in our country.

It is never the rapist's fault, and it is safe to assume that he just has the urge to release himself, and the women, who are distastefully dressed in saris, or pants or burqas, are his game. After all, it is his animal urge and instinct over which he seemingly has no control. It is not his fault that he rapes, and then kills the woman, he must punish her because he is the dominant alpha.

It's almost a cool thing to do, the rapist believe, teaching women, the lowest of the low, a lesson. He must show them who rules; in his marital bed with his wife, with his girlfriend while having consent, even with the girl who sells her body every night for food and money.

He knows he is never considered a perpetrator; in fact, he is doing good to society by teaching these 'loose' women a lesson. Seemingly, it's his personal jihad



against obscenity. And he wins, because when he rapes a woman, the entire society is with him, it is of course the girl's fault to tease him by wearing tight shirts or hijabs.

In a report published in The Daily Star, it says according to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), at least 1,627 women were raped

and gang-raped across the country in 2020. Of them, 53 were killed after rape and 14 died by committing suicide. The number of rape victims was 1,413 in 2019, and 732 in 2018 — ASK mentioned in its 2020 annual report.

What can these Pritilata Brigade, or

banners like "Bangladesh against Rape and Injustice" do? Whenever the rapist commits this deed, few protest rallies are the only 'nuisance' talking against him. If by bad luck he is arrested, he gets out on bail, because it's no big deal to rape and kill a woman. Justice for the victims will never be served timely.

Manusher Jonno Foundation, in one of its recent studies, found that out of the 25 pending rape cases they were following during 2012 to 2017, among the 25 raped, three were physically and mentally challenged, four victims were children from the age group of 5 to 10, five children were between 11 and 15 years of age, 16 from the age group of 16 to 35.

About 20 of the rapists are out on bail, three of them are in jail, two of them are under the umbrella of influential people

and they remain scot free. The current situation of these cases is, most of them are in court under trial, four cases are inactive because of missing documents, and 20 of the accused are on bail. All the accused persons got bail within 24 hours to 15 days. As per law, police are bound to file charge sheet within 90 working days.

So, you see how easy it is for rapist to commit this crime and go scot free.

In The Daily Star report, Taqbir Huda, research specialist at Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, who leads the Rape Law Reform Now Campaign, said "Whenever a rape gets reported, we see a large section of society normalising the crime and implying that the rape was almost inevitable.

"When you treat rape as inevitable by stretching the concept of 'boys will be boys,' you are essentially telling men and boys to go and rape a girl to death, because we'll always find a way to put the blame on her."

For these criminal mentality men, they believe it's their birth right to force a woman to subjugation, and raping her is just a way of ensuring it. And unfortunately, the majority of the society is somehow finding an excuse for the rapist, and blaming the victim.

Forcing yourself on a woman, even if you have consent for sex, is not a gentlemanly thing to do.

Stop the rapist in you, think better.

Keep a lookout for Lifestyle Talks tonight, 8: 30 p.m., at The Daily Star Facebook LIVE for a much needed discussion with Khushi Kabir, Coordinator, Nijera Kori and Feminist and Human Rights Activist, on sexual consent.

— RBR
Photo: Star

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Careful with your expenses. Relatives may make unreasonable demands. Health problems can arise this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Deceit from co-workers is apparent. Take care of your family. Original ideas will bring praise at work. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Make time for travel. Don't blame yourself too much. Avoid any misunderstandings. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Sudden changes at home will be disruptive. Find ways to get ahead at work. Children will be troublesome. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Your charm will be captivating. Help out loved ones. Find time for things you love. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Tackle legal matters first. Educational pursuits will pay off. Your communication skills will be excellent this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Your partner will be annoying. Take care if travelling. Don't let yourself be bullied into doing things. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Take part in social event. Your partner may decide to end things. Include loved ones in your activities. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Career moves can be realised. Change can be better than expected. Don't let anyone take you for granted. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Avoid any misunderstandings with others. Help a friend in need. Your partner may raise issues with your behaviour. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Make changes to your home. Complete any projects efficiently. Don't add to the ranting and raving. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Don't let co-workers interfere. Catch up on gossip. Disharmony at home will be extremely stressful. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

#FASHION

A splash of
COFFEE
in your tresses



#FASHION

COFFEE Hair Colour is a Thing



The new year is here, and we are quite happy about it. Finally, there's some light at the end of the tunnel and there's a chance to get back to our previous lifestyles — just as it was before the pandemic. As we wait for the vaccines, immunisation and reasonable safety from the deadly virus, we also look into the lighter sides of life. The styles we used to once follow, the hair colours we almost died for and the endless soirees to attend.

In 2021, despite the gloom, we fight back by keeping our souls lifted and dreaming of better times. And what can keep us motivated better than a gorgeous shade on our manes. This year, like any other year, there's a specific shade that hairstylists all over the world are following and they are better known as the coffee colours!

Our favourite drinks are now considered 'a selected shade' for our tresses. If you need explanation, then look no further!

Here's how to achieve it Café Latte

Truly the best of both worlds, this look perfectly balances between your favourite shade of blonde and the dirty, deep ash kind and brunette. The colour is luscious, respectable, and reminds us of our favourite beverage. The multi-tonal hair colour is exceptionally complementary to the Asian olive skin tone. Somehow, our skin colour pops out even more with this shade. Just imagine putting on a beige dress, café latte as hair colour and funky medium length hair and you will start drooling. I don't know about you because I have already gone bonkers for it.

According to Sabikun Nahar, the head stylist and proprietor at HairBar Dhaka, It's the perfect way to darken our ruined shades for the season and to lighten up for those who have already have a darker shade in their hair — just to spice it up a little.

We all need that, don't we?
Café Mocha

Café Mocha is a warmer shade to café latte that provides life and

shine to dull hair strands. This colour made headlines in 2020, when celebrities started to colour their hair in this shade. Caffeine addicted people, almost everybody of the current generation, picked up on the tone and built up a certain affinity and then there was simply no turning back. The colour instantly became an Instagram sensation, with bloggers and influencers trying out this shade to brighten their tresses. Men and women alike!

To us, hereby this very colour is certainly 'the cool beginning' to 2021.

Another great thing about this hair colour is its subtlety. This colour can be paired with any dress, any occasion or even any accessory. For brunettes, who want a bit of experimentation with their hair colour — the café mocha is the best option. To the rest, if you want to experiment, then there are multiple shades of brown — or coffee colours we must say. The options are endless.

Finally, all be said, we want to end it on a fun note. Just like your morning coffee, the coffee hair colours are not fixed and can be adjusted like your favourite morning beverage. So, have fun experimenting!

By Fashion Police
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Special thanks to Sabikun Nahar — Proprietor, Head Stylist at HairBar Dhaka
Models: Tadmira Haque, Darimee Azmal
Hair and Makeup — HairBar Dhaka
Location: HairBar Gulshan 2



Snacking on the go!

In an era where time seems to be moving at a pace faster than we can possibly keep track of, we often resort to snacking while we are on the move. In between getting chores done and running errands to get through the day, sometimes, what we all desire is to grab a quick and filling bite — and Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit aptly serves this purpose.



A delicious snack that consists of three crunchy cookies sandwiched between two generous layers of thick and velvety cream, Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit truly provides delight in every bite. Enjoy it as it is, or pair it up with your morning milk or afternoon tea to create a fulfilling meal, which will also allow you to enjoy the luscious melt-in-your-mouth sensation.



The combination of zesty orange cream and rick milk cream that gels the sandwich biscuits provide for a fruity and pleasant flavour combination that is sure to leave your taste buds craving for more. Luckily, this craving will inevitably be satiated because Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit comes in a pack of three! Thoughtfully packaged to make it travel friendly, Hatrick Sandwich

Biscuit makes for a great grab-and-go snack for people who are on the move. Furthermore, its versatile nature makes it suitable to be consumed during any time of the day, be it to meet your late-night cravings while completing assignments at home or as a breakfast alternative before rushing to work or class early in the morning. It is a quick go-to snack that can be grabbed hurriedly.

At other times, Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit can be the perfect accompaniment to an enjoyable occasion, such as while on the way to a picnic somewhere afar or as a fun snack during those late-night movie sessions. Be it outdoors or indoors, Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit pleasantly completes and complements every affair.

From being your study buddy to being the perfect travel snack, Hatrick Sandwich Biscuit is suitable for all occasions. Priced reasonably at only Tk 5, this product from PRAN can easily be stocked up in your pantry — but retain cautiousness about finishing them up too soon!

By Fariha Amber

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed



Instant snack solution for children

Reigning the market for over a decade to the point of becoming a common household name, PRAN Mama Wafer is evidently the first preference for children and parents alike when it comes to choosing a wafer brand. The vast array of categories along with amazing flavours that are available makes it the instant snack solution for children.

PRAN Mama Wafer not only creates a delightful sensation due to its delicious taste, but it can be associated with excerpts from childhood as well. Be it the look of joy on children's faces upon seeing their parents carry it home from work, or the bright smiles during tiffin break while sharing it with friends, PRAN Mama Wafer creates pleasant childhood memories.

As children exhaust all their energy playing around and then come looking for a quick bite during odd hours, PRAN Mama Wafer can deliciously fulfil their needs. The go-to snack is apt to be enjoyed anywhere and during anytime of the day, both as a midday snack and during those playful recreational hours in the evening.

PRAN Mama Wafer is available in five delicious avatars, whereby the plain category comes in six delectable flavours to choose from. Whether children prefer basic flavours such as milk and vanilla, a classic one such as chocolate, or opt for a fruity taste such as banana, strawberry, and orange — PRAN Mama Wafer has something in store to meet everyone's liking.

PRAN Mama Wafer also takes on the delicious form of a roll wafer. These sweet and delectable chocolate rolls are generously piped with a rich and creamy filling with two flavour options to choose from — chocolate and vanilla, and both are bursting with piquancy! Another unique version that PRAN Mama Wafer adapts is in the form of pillow wafer. A sweet alternative to chips, it is a fun and appetising snack for children to enjoy.

While the aforementioned varieties are light snacks, a heavier option would be the chocolate coated version of PRAN Mama Wafer. Three crunchy layers glued together by chocolate cream with a final heavy coating of rich chocolate, it is a fulfilling snack on its own. The final variant of PRAN Mama Wafer is a creamy version, which depicts the perfect combination of creamy and crunchy in one snack, thus, making it the perfect snack solution for children.



By Fariha Amber

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Tavishee Tarannum

#FOOD

The perfect winter soups

After a whole year of scorching heat and suffocating humidity, winter is a season loved and welcomed by most. However, the negatives are those cold foggy mornings, the freezing cold tap water, the reluctance to get out from those warm beds, and coughs and colds.

We try to tackle the cold with layers of sweaters and jackets, scarves and fuzzy woollen socks, but nothing beats the cold like a steaming cup of tea or a piping hot bowl of soup. A bowl of delicious savoury soup will warm up your body and soul from the inside out, right down to those frozen toes.

I come from a family where everybody loves to cook, my late grandparents, my parents, and my siblings all have a passion for cooking. My childhood memory is filled with my father making different kinds of soups throughout the year, especially during winter.

Our house had an unbelievably long open veranda, with a garden at the front and a backyard. In the 1980s, there were only a handful of tall commercial buildings, which meant nothing blocked the sun, the rain or the wind. And cold draft blew throughout the house, through the gaps under the doors and froze everyone.

Back then, everyone sat together as a family and watched the programmes like *dharabahik natoks*, which aired on BTV, or a movie played on the VCR from a rented video cassette.

The electric heater was placed carefully



on the floor in a corner, away from hanging clothes and wooden furniture and us children were constantly warned not to touch the red hot glowing electric rods.

A tray filled with bowls of soup was passed around and we cradled our steaming bowls, warming up those frozen fingers, and let the delicious hot liquid warm us up right from the inside.

My father made all kinds of soups. Everyone had their own favourites. My favourite was, and still is, cream of chicken. He made it whenever I demanded or when I was sick because I would not eat anything else. Now, even though I'm all grown up and a mother of two, my father still makes cream of chicken soup for me during my pregnancies, or when I'm sick.

Another all-time family favourite was

cream of tomato soup. Back when cream did not come from a tin, and canned tomatoes were unheard of, my father made this soup from scratch, using fresh, good quality tomatoes that came out in winter and always served it with homemade croutons.

Nowadays, with all kinds of ingredients available, cooking has become so much easier, simpler and time saving. The recipes have evolved during transition from one generation to the next, the old ways embracing the new.

So, here is my take on my father's recipe of cream of chicken and cream of tomato soup.

Happy cooking everyone!

CREAM OF CHICKEN AND MUSHROOM

Ingredients
 1 cup boneless chicken (cut in cubes)
 ½ cup sliced mushrooms
 2 tbsp finely chopped onions
 2 tbsp butter
 1 tbsp flour
 250ml milk, thickened with powder milk
 250ml hot water
 2 tbsp oil
 1 chicken cube
 Salt and pepper, to taste

Method
 In a saucepan, add oil and sliced mushrooms. Cook till all the water released from the mushrooms have evaporated, and there's a slight golden

colour. Add the onions and chicken, and cook, with a pinch of salt. Add the butter and stir till it melts completely. Add flour and stir. Cook the flour, along with the chicken and mushrooms, till it becomes light brown and fragrant.

Add the milk and simultaneously, stir vigorously. This will make a thick roux. Dissolve the chicken cube in the water and add. Add salt and pepper according to your taste. Serve with toast and butter.

Tip

If you find the flour has become too dry while frying, add more butter. Do not fry the flour till it's dark brown, this will change the taste of the soup, and you won't have a sweet silky cream base. Always be careful as flour burns quickly.

You can always use canned cream to make cream soup. In this case, eliminate the milk and cut down on the flour.

CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP

Ingredients
 500g tomatoes
 2 tbsp finely chopped garlic
 1 tbsp finely chopped onions
 2 tbsp butter
 1 tbsp flour
 1 cup milk
 2 tbsp oil
 1 cups water
 Salt and pepper, according to taste

Method
 In a large saucepan add water, and bring

it to boil. Score crosses on the bottom of the tomatoes. In a large bowl, have ice water ready to use. Place the tomatoes in the pot of boiling water for 30 seconds to a minute, till the skin starts to peel back. Using a strainer transfer the tomatoes from the pot to the ice water.

Peel the tomatoes and chop into pieces. In a saucepan, add oil and garlic and fry till garlic is light brown and aromatic. Add onions and cook till translucent. Add the chopped tomatoes and cook till the raw taste and smell is completely gone. Take the cooked tomatoes off the heat and blend to make a smooth puree. In another clean saucepan, make roux with flour, butter and milk. (Detailed instructions are given in cream of chicken soup recipe).

Add the tomato puree. Cook till soup thickens to your preference. Add salt and pepper according to taste. Add water if required. Serve with croutons.

Tip

Always use tomatoes that are packed with flavour and bright in colour. The easier, hassle free way to make this soup is to use canned tomatoes, tomato paste or canned tomato puree. The garlic flavour should come through with the tomatoes. Taste, and add more garlic if needed. Instead of roux, you can add canned cream.

Food and Photo: Nafisa Ahmed Sonali

LIFE AS IT IS**WARA KARIM**

Writer, painter, gardener, content creator
Website: <http://www.scratchingout.com>



Still thankful

The last year has been terrible! A tragic year, a year that seems to me longer than all the other years I have lived. This is the sort of year that lingers on, stubbornly refusing to come to an end. However, as I look back on 2020, I tell myself, "In spite of all the heartbreaks and losses, there are many things that I am still thankful for."

Health and wellness

The pandemic has brought people closer. Yes, there are times when seeing each other 24/7 is leading to more frequent arguments and disagreements among family

members, but when I think of all those families that have empty chairs at their dining tables, I cannot be thankful enough for my own health and my family's health.

Financial security

So many of us take so many things for granted, especially when it comes to fulfilling our basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing. This pandemic has taught us all over again that nothing in life is guaranteed.

Countless number of people around the globe have lost their jobs and businesses. There are businesses that have permanently shut down, especially smaller ones. So, if you still have a job, if your business is still feeding your family, or if you still have a roof over your head in these uncertain times, count your blessings.

Healthcare professionals

No matter where we are living, we should be thankful for our doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. Our frontline PPE-clad heroes are working against the clock in extreme conditions, and so many laid down their lives in the line of duty in the initial weeks and months of this pandemic.

I am thankful for the healthcare professionals wherever they are living and have been combatting coronavirus since day one. What would we have done without them?

Teachers

I am personally thankful for my daughter's class teacher, her patience, and her dedication. Teaching is not an easy job, and teaching virtually is even more challenging, especially teaching young children. Sometimes, I wonder how she is doing it so well, going as far as arranging two successful virtual class parties.

I asked my daughter's class teacher, Wendy Turner, who is a 2016 PAEMST (America's highest honour for teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics) awardee, what it is like to be a teacher in this pandemic.

She said, "Heart-breaking and exhilarating. Devastating and exciting. More difficult than the wildest imagination allows one to conjure. More beautiful than the double rainbow after the storm. This is teaching in 2020. I am humbled, honoured, exhausted, hopeful, inspired and here. Every minute. Every day. It remains a great privilege to teach. Even now. Perhaps now more than ever."

The future of a nation rests with its children, and our teachers are making sure that tomorrow's nation builders do not fall behind when good days return. If your children are doing distance learning in this pandemic, thank their teachers for their hard work.

Time to pursue hobbies

The stay-at-home condition has given me the time to pursue my hobbies and other interests, certain interests that I perhaps otherwise would not have pursued. I have also seen friends and family take up new hobbies or embark on personal projects.

Technology

I am also thankful for technology, which has enabled adults to work from home and children to attend online school in these challenging times. Digital communication is shrinking distances, enabling people to hear and see their loved ones every day in these times of social distancing.

Other essential workers

This piece will remain incomplete if I do not write that I am also thankful for our law enforcement officers, journalists, delivery men and women, postal workers, truckers, grocery store workers, waste management employees, and all others who are working in trades and sectors critical to the smooth running of an economy.

It is for these people that we can be at home; they are keeping us safe, meeting our needs while exposing themselves to the virus every day.

In spite of being a tragic year marked by disease and deaths, there are many things and people to be thankful for in the year 2020. I am thankful to be alive and kicking!

#PRESS RELEASE

Le Reve announces "30-50-70% Sale 2021"

One of the leading fashion brands in Bangladesh, Le Reve has started its biggest end-of-season sale of the year. The brand has announced "30-50-70% sale" on trending men's, women's, and children wear, and the latest Winter Collection.

Monnujan Nargis, CEO of Le Reve, states, "Like every year, Le Reve is offering up to 70 percent off on all collections for women, men, children, and the latest Winter Collection. We see this event not as a sale, but as a joyous festival for all Le Reve members and customers. I invite everyone to enjoy shopping at Le Reve with the season's biggest savings offer."

"End of Season Sale 2021" (EOSS'21) focuses on aesthetic casual, office, and festive clothing collections and offer tunics, shalwar kameezs, saris, abayas, tops, coatees, shrugs, shirts, blazers, jackets, sweaters along with palazzos, harem pants, leggings, and denim pants for women.

Winter jackets, blazers, shawls, denims, leggings, harem pants, palazzos, along with appealing hoodie tunic and jackets in amazingly discounted prices will catch the attention of the women clientele for sure!

For men, there are wide style choices of casual, business casual, and formal shirts including regular, semi-fitted and fitted panjabis. A large collection of polo shirts



and t-shirts has been selected. Denim pants, chinos, along with unique and comfortable pant-pajamas, churidaar, and dhuti-cut pajamas are available at discounted prices.

Core winter products like sweatshirts, hoodie shirts, taffeta jackets, hoodie jackets, blazers, and denim jackets, along with formal and casual shirts and t-shirts will be available in this sale festival.

This discount will also cover Le Reve's 9 to 9 collections, which is essentially work and after-work wear for men and women.

EOSS'21 also offers stylish, yet highly comfortable children wear such as polo shirts, t-shirts, panjabi sets, woven sets, ghagra-cholis, tunics, shalwar kameezs, and nimas for newborns. Surprising discounts are available on fashion and lifestyle



accessories and Le Reve Home, too.

You can join Le Reve EOSS Festival 2021 at all Le Reve showrooms in Dhaka, Khulna, Narayanganj, and Sylhet. To avail all the sale products at one place at a suitable time, simply order online at www.lerevecraze.com.

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/lerevecraze

#HOBBY

Banglapex 2020 – a haven for stamp collectors

The philatelic scene of Bangladesh is not hyped due to its lack of popularity among the general populace, but upon closer observation, one will realise that it is in fact abuzz with interesting events and activities. The most recent of which is Banglapex 2020 – the fourth national stamp exhibition that is currently being held virtually.

Organised by Bangladesh Philatelic Federation, the event was inaugurated on 19 December, 2020, by our Honourable Telecommunication Minister, Mustafa Jabbar. Although the official results had been published on 30 December, given its virtual nature, anyone can freely view the exhibition in the forthcoming months.

First held in 1984, followed by in 1992, and then after a lengthy gap again in 2019, this is the first virtual stamp exhibition of its kind to include a jury committee who assessed and awarded exhibitors accordingly. On this occasion, new stamps were issued, a first day cover and a special cover along with a couple of postmarks.

The jury consisted of seven members comprising both national and international jurors, who judged participants on the basis of presentation, rarity, knowledge, and condition, among various other criteria. Awards were distributed on various levels ranging from bronze to large vermeil, along with seven special prizes given out to the most deserving exhibitors.

Even non-philatelists would be awestruck by the compelling collection of stamps across 217 'frames' presented at the exhibition, because the category selection is in fact fascinating with some of the best stamp collectors taking part, among a total of 82 participants.

The exhibition consists of myriad categories that contain an impressive assortment of stamps, ranging from 'traditional philately' to 'thematic philately'.



Under the 'postal history' category, the exhibit named "Early Indian Postal Cancellations Victorian Era 1854 – 84" intriguingly displays fragments of history through postmarks and Victorian stamps of India.

Another exhibit named "Postal Stationeries of Independent Bangladesh (since 1972)" shows a copious assemblage

of postcards, envelopes, and aerogrammes that were issued by Bangladesh Post Office after the country's independence, which recaps the country's postal annals since liberation by being a tell-tale of history.

The organising body, Bangladesh Philatelic Federation, has taken the initiative to host such an exhibition

annually in the upcoming years. This not only promotes philately on a national level but does so internationally as well. To be able to participate internationally, one must attend national exhibitions first and this platform creates the scope for philatelists to advance further.

"The philatelic presence of Bangladesh is showing good progress on an international context. Bangladesh has already won two large vermeil awards internationally in two different exhibitions and is on track to receive a gold level award as well," said Mohammed Monirul Islam, Bangladesh Jury Secretary at Banglapex 2020.

Many might argue that the philatelic scenario of Bangladesh is moribund but A T M Anwarul Quadir, Bangladesh National Jury, Secretary, and Exhibition Chief Co-ordinator at Banglapex 2020 begs to differ.

"There exists sufficient philatelic enthusiasm in our country and it is quantifiably evident as new stamps are being issued and sold frequently with a growing number of philatelists," he said.

However, he also voiced his opinion regarding the issuance of stamps stating that to stir more curiosity among people, stamps should be issued covering a broad spectrum of themes to include nature, environment, personality, and architecture that are thought provoking and interestingly convey the country's significance to people.

Albeit stamp collection may seem as a hobby superficially, it is much deeper than that. Stamps hold the power to beautifully narrate stories, allow to preserve history and epoch, provide the opportunity for cultural exchange, and most importantly represent a country's rich story and heritage.

Exhibition link: <http://banglapex.com>

By Fariha Amber

ALOE VERA
ত্বকে করে নমন, কোমল ও সতেজ

COCOA BUTTER
ত্বকের গভীরে প্রবেশ করে ত্বকের অর্ধতা বর্ধায় রাখে

FINE FRAGRANCE
আপনাকে করে তোলে আনন্দময়ী

এবার শীতে আপনার সজীব ও কোমল ত্বক পাক আভিজাত্যের ছোঁয়া

এখন প্রতিটি **বিউটিনা** বডি লোশনের সাথে একটি **ম্যান্ডালিনা** সোপ

ফ্রী*

Beautina
BODY LOTION

HEALTHY ত্বকে আত্মবিশ্বাসী আমি। আর আপনি?

*বিউটিনা বডি লোশন ২০০মিলিঃ এর সাথে ম্যান্ডালিনা সোপ ৭৫ গ্রাম এবং বিউটিনা বডি লোশন ১০০মিলিঃ এর সাথে ম্যান্ডালিনা সোপ ৫০ গ্রাম ফ্রী।

#INTERVIEW

Aspire to Inspire — six successful ladies breaking down invisible barriers

The human mind is such that we always dream of a world where gender equality simply exists. We sing about it, build stories around it, and yet somehow, we are nowhere close to our considerations. Even after so many years of progress per se, we solely blame patriarchy for every shortcoming, when in reality it's every one of us who don't want to take the responsibility, break the shackles and live in a new world, defying the rules of yesterday— rules that need to be modified to suit our development.

But all is not lost; there are handfuls amongst us, as there have been all throughout time, to question the norm, defy the archaic rules and live life to their own terms and not by the rules that have been dictated to them, because it suits the rest of the world.

Here's the story of few such torchbearers who take every day as a challenge and light-up the pathways for the next generation — showing them that it is okay to be different. That different is normal and not evil like the way society depicts it to be.

Meher Afroz Shaon, the famed actor, director, playback singer and an architect laugh at the word 'evil' as she narrates her story to us.

"I am the evil queen then, because my life has been anything but normal. At least I did not follow the rules by any means, I did what my heart directed me to do and that's religion to me— *manobdhormo*," she said.

Shaon added on few more gratifying words to our conversation.

"I am requesting people in general to stop writing my stories for me, and just let me be. Just because I am dressing up does not mean I am having an affair! I can dress for myself – that's my personal right. At this point in life, it really does not bother me though, because I have become very strong mentally but this 'vile act' may actually hinder the progression of others, including people of the younger generation, who are yet to begin their journey. We should all change ourselves for that one person, and just let them be," relayed the actor.

Sohana Saba, actor and TV personality voices a similar opinion —

"These people, the ones who make nasty remarks are pretty unsuccessful in their own lives, so they hide behind the invisible veil of social media and make hateful comments. If they were not anything but unproductive and unsuccessful, they would be busy working outside, making attempts to uplift others or do something productive that benefits the society. So, my request to the youngsters of today and tomorrow would be not to pay any attention to these mean people and carry on doing great work — because at the end of the day, that's all that matters."

Azra Mahmood, renowned model,

fashion choreographer and television presenter joined in with her views.

"We learn about good manners from an early age and yet, we display the audacity to comment on other people's personal lives— even when we are not welcome; oddly – even to people who are absolute strangers! I don't understand the culture behind this.

"We comment on others randomly for every subject under the sun — when they should get married, have children or even maintain a certain height or weight, why should it be like that at all? What makes anyone think that they have the right to dictate other's lives? My lifestyle is my

My personal belief is that all of us need to learn to be content on our own and only then will we be able to spread love to others," said the veteran model.

All the ladies at the rendezvous agreed to an important fact that it was no use singling out the men because non-progressive women also join the bandwagon of degrading others, and try to drag-down everyone around.

Syeda Samara Mortada, a feminist activist, a writer and a mother as she proudly calls herself, reverberated in the same tone.

"I think a woman can do everything a man can do and that's what I am trying to

Ayreen Khan, researcher, founder — iCan Foundation — agreed to all the narratives with a silent nod.

She added, "I believe in humanity – it's as simple as that! Till date I haven't heard anyone say that – 'you can't do this because you are a human or you can do this because you are a human.' Instead they specify the gender. It's not about the gender at all, it's always about humanity, and that's what I believe."

She went on to say, "Harassment in any sector, including the workplace, should be dealt with courage and firmness. Because if you let go of something today — thinking that it is insignificant and would make you too uncomfortable to deal with, would only encourage the perpetrators to continue, increasing their level of aggravation every time. So modestly put, we must find the courage within ourselves to draw the line — 'this simple act' will put a halt to many untoward incidents in the future, if not to all," said Khan.

At the end of it all, the six ladies laughed on the insecurities that they once had. These ladies may have learnt it the hard way, but the obstacles actually made them the strong women that they are today— each successful in their profession and personal lives, following their own set of rules.

Tanziral Dilshad Ditan, the founder of KrayonMag and the initiator of the campaign revels in her achievement to get the stories of these wonderful ladies out there.

"The stories may be few but even if it reaches a handful of youngsters it would mean a lot. This would be a tiny way of encouraging these youngsters to be free, from imaginary shackles that they build around themselves. I would keep on working in this field, as long as I can, to let the next generation know what it means to live a life based on passion and free-will; free of inhibitions and full of courage," said the storyteller, as she loves to call herself.

At the end of our conversations, all the ladies put one point across — change lies within own selves. If we start with the change, then there's bound to be others to follow.

By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury
Direction, Photography and Editing:
Sheikh Suraiya Rehnuma
Photo Personalities: Meher Afroz Shaon, Sohana Saba, Azra Mahmood, Bulbul Tumpa, Syeda Samara Mortada, Ayreen Khan
Photography Assistant: Parapar Shammon, Manik
Shoot Co-ordinator: Tamanna Tasneem
Production House: LenZKraft Studio
Campaign Supervisor: Tazrin Binny
Costume: Costumière by Zubaida Ahabab
A KrayonMag Initiative



own choice, I can do anything with it, as long as I am not hurting others or doing anything harmful to myself. I can have children whenever I want to or not at all. It's my body and my own choice, no one can dictate the terms for me," said Mahmood.

Bulbul Tumpa, model, choreographer, and a media personality spoke in the same light.

"Everybody around me has an opinion on my marital status. The opinion that I want to put across is that I can be happy alone; I can live wonderfully without a man in my life, if that's what I want. As long as I have not changed my opinion, others should not dictate it for me. This is the 21st century; a woman can do whatever a man can do. And 'NO' we don't have to rely on the other gender for 'money, companionship or even mental strength.'

teach my 7-year-old daughter. I want her to think that the horizons are wide enough for her, to be anything at all, from an astronaut to a police officer. The sky is the limit and all she needs to do is find her passion and pursue it," relayed Mortada.

The activist also pointed out a fact that it was time for the modern woman, to fight against oppressors and perpetrators collectively.

"It's not right for people to pinch us, push us, and touch us, all because we are sitting in a public transport or walking on a public road. It is our right to do so, and everybody should learn to respect that. And these teachings actually begin at home. Teach your children that both men and women have equal civic rights and there's no other alternative to the thought process," she said.