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Star

# LIFE

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## BLUE, WHITE and nakshi

**CENTRE OF THE HOUSEHOLD**  
**MODERN KITCHENS P3**  
**COLLECTING THINGS WITH PASSION**  
**SPORTS AND OTHER THINGS P4,5**  
**WHAT'S IN THE BOX?**  
**MATCHES AND MORE C**

**PHOTO: UTURN PRODUCTION**  
**MODEL: MARIA, HIRA, MILI, TANIA, EFA, NAZIA**  
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# Celebrating 700 years of Dante

The Embassy of Italy, in collaboration with Dhaka University's Institute of Modern Languages, held a workshop on Dante on 21 October, on campus. The event was part of the Week of the Italian Language in the World, held every year to celebrate the language internationally. This year, the theme was the great poet Dante Alighieri — with concerts, dramatic readings, etc. undertaken across the globe.



You know or at least have heard of Dante. It is almost impossible not to! Well, you may not have read his works, but it is inevitable that you have at least come across the Divine Comedy. And even if you do not know the man at all or are unfamiliar with his literature, you have surely seen an artwork which was inspired by him.

Many legendary artists, from Sandro Botticelli to William Blake to Salvador Dali, had borrowed inspiration from him. If not anything else, doesn't Dan Brown's novel *Inferno* ring a bell?

Such is the influence of the Italian poet that he remains ubiquitous even centuries after his demise in 1321.

And hence, marking 700 years of Dante's death, this year, the Week of the Italian

Language in the World commemorated his life and works that continue to influence generations after generations.

"Dante is a national icon for us. He is considered to be the Father of the Italian language," said Enrico Nunziata, Italian ambassador to Bangladesh. "He is highly revered as the poet and philosopher who contributed to solidifying the national identity and unity. The Divine Comedy is also part of the syllabus in educational institutions in Italy."

Dante's Divine Comedy is one of the finest works of literature ever produced in the world. The long epic poem, which describes a journey of a soul in the afterlife, deals with a wide plethora of genres and subjects; it is a commentary on politics, it deals with matters

of morality and spirituality, and it is a love story too.

Read it if you haven't already! Although Dante may feel daunting at times, requiring an understanding of his allegories and the politics of his era, he grows on you. It will be worthwhile. You can also try out audiobooks and podcasts, such as "From the Dark Wood to Paradise," as recommended during the workshop.

The ambassador said that the purpose of the workshop was to spark interest among the youth to read the works by this poet.

Along with the ambassador, the workshop was attended by Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman, vice-chancellor of University of Dhaka, Dr A B M Razaul Karim Faquire, director of DU's Institute of Modern Languages, and Thomas Baumgartner, political attaché of the Embassy of Switzerland. Dr Stefania Chiapello, an academic who has explored Dante with her research work, spoke at the workshop.

The workshop also introduced to the participants a virtual tour of the exhibition, Dante Plus 700. On the online platform, you could move about much like the way you would when using Google Street View for example, and see the overall exhibits and click on them to explore further.

The exhibition brought together a diverse group of artists, featuring paintings, sculptures et al — portrayals of Dante in various themes and ideas. To exemplify, some would remind you of cartoons and comic books and yet a few others had quirkily put him in today's modern settings, like the one where he is shown with a laptop, or the one where he dons a spacesuit!

A man who lived centuries ago and was exiled from Florence, had transcended times and borders, continuing to be relevant in this day and age, never failing to capture the imagination of the contemporary. Dante is timeless. The exhibition and overall this year's Week of the Italian Language in the World, are testaments to that.

By M H Haider

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ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা  
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

**স্যান্ডালিনা**  
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

**KOHINOOR CHEMICAL**





#REVIEWS

# The ultimate kitchen experience with My Kitchen

If a house is compared with an office, the kitchen is its workstation, and it is of utmost importance that any workstation is built to be functional. My Kitchen, a concern of Tilottoma Bangla Group, offers complete kitchen solutions while ensuring optimal design, functionality, and quality.

Their showroom is a testimonial to the idea of encouraging all members of the family to work in the kitchen, making it a fun activity. Walking into it, you will be greeted with an array of inviting kitchen setups, which shall instantly make you want to cook – and you can do that too!

Customers are given the opportunity to experience the joy of cooking within their setup in their live cooking station. Furthermore, their idea of an open kitchen coupled with a modern and elegant look makes it a seamless coalescence with the living area, so that hosts do not have to feel left out when guests are over.

My Kitchen offers elegant and superior quality solutions for brilliantly organised kitchens. "We strive to combine cutting-edge European technology with the



include geyser, dishwasher, and kitchen hood as well.

Apart from world-class kitchen solutions, My Kitchen offers modern living solutions as well, setting a unique example of the future of living. Their studio apartment is facilitated with multipurpose foldable furniture, using minimal space yet offering maximum functionality. With beds that double-up as a workstation, pull-out dining tables, and cabinetry that is designed for a clutter-free organisation, the studio apartment is geared with every need of a basic home.

Apart from these, the studio displays incredible setups of vanity basins with adjustable lighting, sleek sanitary solutions, and walk-in-closets. My Kitchen not only provides solutions for a kitchen set up, but creates an entire experience catering to the needs of people. Everything is customisable including design, size, colour, and look so that you may choose what fits most aptly in your home.

Essentials —



Bangladeshi cooking culture to provide a comfortable cooking experience that is both aesthetically pleasing and functional, making it the ultimate kitchen experience," explained Shahrir Sajjad, Managing Director of My Kitchen.

A kitchen typically consists of five working areas, being storage, cleaning, preparing, cooking, and serving. For a hassle-free cooking experience, these zones should be amalgamated in the best possible manner and My Kitchen warrants this.

The cabinets are well designed to make intelligent use of the whole kitchen space. With the incorporation of tall cabinets, corner cabinets, and base cabinets, every corner of the kitchen is used optimally. Not only that, keeping functionality and usage in mind, they are geared with the flexibility of turn-motion while providing an all-sided view, benchmarking the definition of everything at your fingertips.

With sensory lights installed into every

storage unit, dramatic usage of lighting along with quiet functionality that closes with simply a push or tap, cooking was never this fun! Storage drawers are laid with anti-slip mats or sectioned neatly for organisation, so that your utensils and jars never lose their position.

Alongside, the larder unit adjacent to the fridge makes for a complete storage centre for both dry and wet ingredients. Apart from internal storage, the external workspace is also catered towards optimal usage of capacity. By pulling out the cantilevered pull-out table, you can instantly add additional working space.

My Kitchen setups are geared with appliances as well. From essentials such as microwave and fridge, the option for a built-in television is also available to make cook-along shows livelier for you! The coffee maker attached with a coffee tandem shall easily be your favourite corner in the kitchen. Some other built-in functionalities



Address: House #8, road #138, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

Website: <https://www.mykitchen-bd.com/>

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tilottomamykitchen/?hl=en>

By Fariha Amber  
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed





#HOBBIES

# TOKEN OF PASSION

## Collecting cricket memorabilia

How often did you imagine meeting one of your favourite players and maybe get a signed jersey from them? That really would have been something. While most people can only dream of such things, there are those who dare to pursue that dream and make it a reality.

The story of Zunaid Paiker is one such story that will make you believe that anyone can achieve such a feat should they be passionate enough.

"It all started when I was very little. I'll have to thank my father for the special opportunity — he arranged for me to be a ball boy for the Wills International Cup, back in 1998. It was a chance to meet the players up close and interact with them. And this is where I started my journey of collecting memorabilia — with autographs," reminisced Paiker, while fiddling with a pair of gloves of Shakib-Al-Hasan, that he wore while scoring the century against



West Indies (2019). He seemed to be very fond of this piece. And why not? It's been marked by Shakib himself and it's one of the recent additions in his huge collection that includes all sorts of things.

Caps, gloves, cricket balls, coins, jerseys, coat pins, keyrings, books, tie, autographs, signed photos, replica trophies, signed bats — you name it. Anything you can think of, he's probably got it in his collection.

The best way to support your team is by showing up at the stadium, but Zunaid Paiker doesn't just show up, he even keeps the match tickets. There are bundles of tickets in his collection that include those for tawdry matches of the domestic league to high voltage matches of the World Cup. His passion is not just reflected in his collection, it's well recognised worldwide.

As the Co-founder and President of BCSA (Bangladesh Cricket Supporters' Association) he thinks it is very important for younger people to have hobbies since it channels your time into something that you enjoy and offers an opportunity to learn new things. You could really tell how much he loves his collection as he picked up one after another object from his collection and told a story.

"One of my fondest memories is with Mohammad Ashraful. I asked for an autograph and he was nice enough to invite me to his hotel room where he arranged for me to get the autograph of the whole team. It was just a few days before the 2011 world cup



and players were very busy but he still managed it and that was very nice." And that's just one story, of a hundred more.

Another sagacious person who's spent over fifty years after his







he could manage and he managed a dazzling collection. If the original Wisden doesn't catch your eyes, then surely the book by Don Bradman will? What if it was autographed by Bradman himself? One can't put a value on such a memorable piece.

Out of his memorabilia collections, he's got signed balls, bats and gloves. What will really catch your eye from this collection is the life size bat signed by all the players



collection is M Mokhlesur Rahman. He personifies what is possible if you are passionate enough. He's been collecting stamps, books, magazines, coins and memorabilia but he's more focused on books and stamps and you could see it in his eyes as he flipped through pages after pages of his stamp collection. He's such a dedicated collector that he's got every single kind of cricket stamp and associated stamp that there is in the world. And he did not stop just there, he collected all the variations of those stamps as well. In his words — "I don't have 100 percent of the cricket stamps, I have got 200 percent of them". It started with magazines back in 1969, back when he used to listen to cricket commentary on radio and that's when his love for the game sparked.

His most prized possession is his collection of Wisden. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, or simply Wisden, is often called the Bible of Cricket with a history of 158 years. M Mokhlesur Rahman has 122 years' worth of collection but he aims to get every single one of them. He's also managed to get cricket related books as much as



of both teams from when Bangladesh played Sri-Lanka in 2009. There were only two of those. The Sri-Lanka team took one with them and this passionate collector managed to get the other.

For the newcomers, he insists that rushing into a collection is not a good idea. "Slow down and think. It takes a lot of research, dedication and passion to maintain a collection so find out what interests you the most, otherwise you will lose your interest after a short while. Identify your interest and start researching," was his advice towards the beginners who might be



interested in a similar journey.

It's not an easy task to turn your passion into something visible that depicts all your struggles and efforts but, it's not impossible and these two people are living proof of that. They also recognise how difficult it is to maintain such hobbies in Bangladesh, which is why they are both hopeful that once the Sheikh Hasina International Cricket Stadium is completed and accommodates its museum, it will change things for the better.



M Mokhlesur Rahman is so hopeful about it that he's willing to donate his stamps collection should here be such a museum in Bangladesh that will protect and appreciate such a priceless collection.

**By Ashif Ahmed Rudro**  
**Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel**







Have you ever given a second glance to the matchbox that sits in your kitchen or the one that you carry in your pocket? Probably not. But, look closer, and a whole world of art, history, and heritage will pop up! Welcome to the curious world of phillumeny, the study and hobby of collecting match-related items.

# The curious hobby of collecting MATCHBOXES

Just like stamps, coins, etc. matchboxes can be collectibles too. But what's so special about matchboxes, you ask?

Well, for starters, did you know that matchboxes actually are of different shapes and sizes? Other than the typical box that we are accustomed to seeing, there are, for example, cylindrical ones. There are matchboxes with long sticks, and then there are the so-called 'tent' matchboxes referring to their shape.

Sizes vary too, and an extreme variation would be the world's smallest — tiny enough to comfortably sit even on the tip of your little finger. "There are only two of these in the world," said Shakil Huq, a renowned phillumenist, who is the proud owner of one of them. "They have been made in India."

Although a graphic designer and interior designer by profession, he has dedicated his entire life to phillumeny.

When I sat down with him and said — as one would say just out of courtesy — 'thank you for agreeing to give me some time out of your schedule', he replied, "It's no problem. It doesn't matter how busy I am, or even if I was losing crores of takas, I wouldn't care, for me phillumeny is the first priority!"

For someone with such a burning passion who has in his collection nearly 20,000 matchboxes and matchbox related items from across the globe, I believe him.

That's a huge number, and while the sheer variety justifies that, it doesn't fail to boggle the mind.

Take for example the vintage Indian-themed Swedish matchboxes. Awe-inspiringly beautiful as they are, these matchboxes that portray in vivid colours Indian people and subjects will spark curiosity, as they have actually been made in Sweden. The Indian theme along with the words 'Made in Sweden' make a curious combination, especially given that they are really old — perhaps dating back to around 1890s to 1940s according to Shakil.

An example of an old matchbox from our region is the one depicting *nouka baich* (traditional boat race). As the label says in Bangla, it was made by The Dhaka Match Factory Limited. "This is a very rare item. I

believe it is from the 1970s," he informed.

Another beautiful item is a set of 'Dictionary Matches,' where a number of matchboxes are kept together, arranged like books on a shelf, and from a distance, they do look like that. Shakil informed that these are from Germany, and that they have high decorative value, referring to them as 'souvenir' matches.

If all these ignite an interest, why not become a collector yourself? Start small. Shakil, who is also the president of Bangladesh Matchbox Collectors' Club, suggests, "First, buy the matchboxes available in local shops. Wherever you go, within the country or abroad, look for matchboxes. If you have friends returning to Bangladesh, ask them if they can bring you some. Study them."

Shakil is not only a collector but a designer too, boasting a wide array, which includes — among other themes — depictions of Bangladeshi monuments and artists and artworks. You can check out his collection from around the world and his own designs at [matchboxmuseum.blogspot.com](http://matchboxmuseum.blogspot.com)

To exemplify, there is a selection of Murtaja Baseer paintings on matchboxes, to which the legendary maestro had said, "I have gotten many awards and rewards for many works, but this is an exceptional one," Shakil fondly remembers the artist (who passed away last year) say to him.

Parvez Ali Anwar Khan, a collector, sheds light on what interests a hobbyist in this field. "There are various themes. We can look at the people and objects and animals and so on, that are portrayed in matchboxes. We can also group matchboxes by country and study cultures," he said.

A former chief engineer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, Parvez's passion of collecting extends beyond phillumeny; for example, he is a devoted stamp collector too. He is associated with various collectors' societies performing the role of an advisor, and also often writes on collectibles in international publications.

He opined that people have been collecting something or other for ages; it is an innate human instinct.

Digging deeper about matchboxes, the phillumeny realm actually encompasses a mindboggling lot. Shuffling through albums and containers, he explained, "You can collect with or without the sticks. The heads of sticks can actually be interesting too, as they can be of different colours. There are also collectors who would pull out the drawer or tray out of the matchbox — the remainder is called a skillet, and it is convenient to store, as you can open it up, flatten it and keep it in an album. On the other hand, wooden matchboxes used to be manufactured before, for these, you may peel out the labels out of them and have them together in albums."

He moved on, handing me a rather large paper: "This is a wrapper which packed several matchboxes together."

Then, showing me a copy of a Time magazine, he said, "See the cover. It has a visual of matchsticks burning. Hence, this

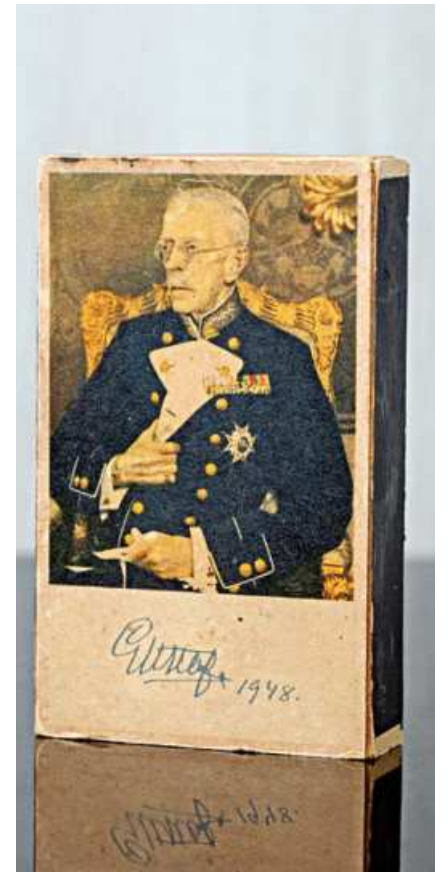
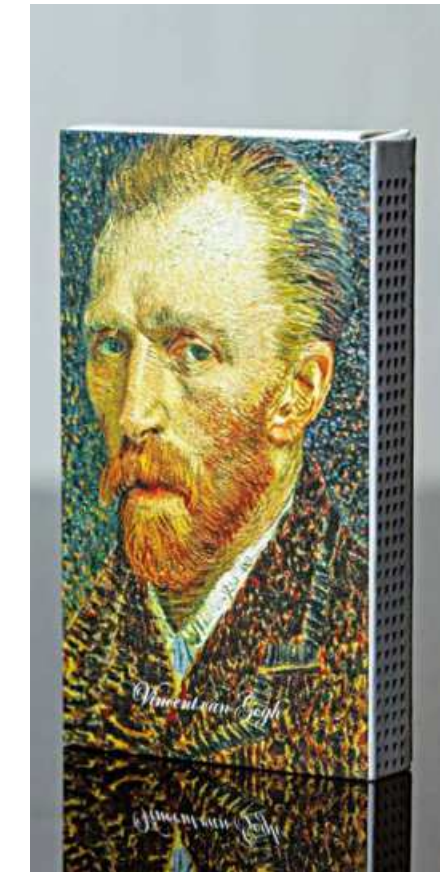
too is a collectible for me."

Parvez concluded that as matchbox manufacturing continues to decline — owing to more popular alternatives such as lighters — phillumeny has the potential to become more and more lucrative.

With so many different matchboxes and matchbox related items, there is something or other that you will like, and that can be your calling to the world of phillumeny. Matchboxes are much more than everyday items that we carry in our pocket or keep in the kitchen. In their own curious ways, they preserve stories that are waiting to be unravelled — to anyone who would give them a second glance and some thought.

By M H Haider

Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel, from the collection of Shakil Huq (including his own designed matchboxes)



A signed King Gustav V matchbox



Shakil Huq, President, Bangladesh Matchbox Collectors' Club



The tiny speck that you see is the world's smallest matchbox





# The best breakfast places in Dhaka city



We've grown up hearing the worn-out phrase of our tired parents that skipping breakfast is a dietary travesty, and this is true for a good reason as we eat breakfast to break our overnight fast.

Only a few of us will decline the offer of a superbly brewed cup of cappuccino and freshly baked cakes and pastries. Restaurants, namely North End Coffee Roasters and Delifrance, are here to keep us hooked with such delicacies and elegant décor.

North End Coffee Roasters has become a popular hub for meeting friends and refreshing the tired mind in recent years.



Having roots in the famous Italian-American "North End" of Boston, North End Coffee Roasters started their journey in the year 2011.

North End is offering a diversified and delicious breakfast menu to its customers. Whether that be chilli cheese croissant or bagel and bacon, North End is here to keep the enthusiastic gourmands well-fed and satisfied by offering a wonderful English

## Traditional Bangladeshi breakfast

From time immemorial, the very familiar rooti and bhaji have satisfied the hunger of Bengalis — be that the hardworking people belonging to the lower strata of the social class or the people who get to enjoy a hearty breakfast sitting in the comfort of their lavish dwellings.

And nehari needs no new introduction as it is a well-known breakfast treat across all of the Indian subcontinent, including Bangladesh. Be that with beef or mutton, nehari is heartily enjoyed by everyone as a popular breakfast meal.

To enjoy breakfast treats such as tandoori naan, dal puri and bhuna khichuri—one must visit Star Kabab Hotel and Restaurant. The interior of Star Kabab always remains vibrant with their loyal customers—no matter what time of the day—one will always find the hotel staff running here and there with plates of rootis



However, morning meal items are not much celebrated in Bangladesh, and our gastronomic indulgence essentially focuses on rich and fatty foods such as kachchi biriyani and polao.

Still, we are becoming mindful of our dietary habits and so is the culinary industry of the country. Many fine restaurants in Dhaka city have gained immense popularity for the breakfast delicacies that they are providing.

Allures of continental and English breakfast The heart of English breakfast is eggs, bacon and beans, but we can also enjoy it with a glass of fresh orange juice or a cup of tea. And if a cup of latte, coffee or cappuccino is added to this mix, the taste buds of any dedicated gourmand will be certainly satisfied.

breakfast menu.

Additionally, to have a sweet and delightful day — the Cinnamon Roll, Yoghurt and Granola Parfait will be the perfect choice for anyone. Such sweet delicacies are available for Tk 120-180.

Want to enjoy the ambience of a French café while sitting at Gulshan Avenue? Take a tour of Delifrance Dhaka, and you will not be disappointed. Delifrance is offering all-day breakfast to their regular customers, and the menu comprises delicious treats such as French toast and Sausage with Croissant. One may enjoy a hearty breakfast at Delifrance by spending Tk 400-650.

Moreover, cafés, namely **Butlers Chocolate Café, Nerdy Bean Coffee Haus, Crimson Cup Coffee** are equally worth exploring.

or a cup of chai. Still, it is better to enjoy breakfast at Star Kabab from around 6-9AM.

Also, one cannot miss the treasures found in Old Dhaka. The streets of Old Dhaka vibrate with the tradition and cultural heritage of Bengali cuisine. New Café Corner, located at North Brook Hall Road, offers mouth-watering mutton cutlet, chicken chop and prawn cutlet to their regular customers.

Moreover, one should also look into the restaurants such as Green Sweetmeat and Royal Restaurant for local flavours and enjoyable breakfast items.

## Charms of breakfast buffet

With time the concept of a breakfast buffet is becoming more popular among food lovers. The primary reason for this attraction is the diversified menu that the breakfast buffet offers. The menu generally consists of eggs, fried potatoes, bacon, sausage, ham, corned beef hash, southern gravy, biscuits, English muffins, bagels etc.,

Lakeshore Hotel situated at the centre of Gulshan is known for offering such an exquisite and delicious breakfast buffet. One can enjoy more than forty breakfast items—comprising of both Bengali and English breakfast treats—at the cost of Tk 1200. And these items are interchangeable meaning Lakeshore keeps rotating their morning meals so that there is more diversity on the buffet counter.

In addition, the boutique hotel Omni Residency and Café Rio have equally gained popularity among their regular customers for the good environment, pleasant service and scrumptious breakfast items that they offer.



**By Ayman Anika**  
**Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed**



**MEALS OF MEMORY**  
SYEDA NAFISA AHMAD



# Easy ways of making healthy meals

Beans, herbs and tofu are often considered easy ingredients for healthy meals, but without the right mix, they could turn out bland. And so, here are a few healthy and delicious meals.

## FOUR BEAN SALAD

### Ingredients

- ¼ cup white cow beans (chawli)
- ¼ cup red kidney beans (rajma)
- ¼ cup green grams (moong)
- 7-8 French beans
- 1 medium size onion
- ¼ small bunch of fresh coriander leaves
- ¼ small bunch of fresh mint leaves
- 2 green chillies
- 3 tbsp lemon juice
- 1½ chaat masala

### Method

Pick and wash white cow beans and kidney beans separately. Soak them separately



overnight, in plenty of water. Wash and soak moong for about two hours. Boil the three dry beans separately in salted water until soft. Drain and let cool.

String, wash French beans and cut into ¼ inch pieces. Boil in one cup of salted water until done. Drain immediately and refresh with cool water. Keep aside. Peel, wash and cut onions. Clean, wash and chop fresh coriander and mint leaves and green chillies. Dilute lemon juice with equal amount of water. Stir in chopped coriander, mint, green chillies and chaat masala. Shake well and refrigerate the dressing for at least an hour. Mix the cooked beans with diced onion and add the dressing. Toss salad well and serve immediately.

## SPINACH AND TOFU SOUP

### Ingredients

- 100g tofu
- 1 bunch spinach
- ½ inch piece ginger
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 tsp oil
- 3 cups vegetable stock
- 1 tbsp light soy sauce



Salt and pepper to taste

### Method

Cut the tofu into one-fourth thick slices and then cut them into one-inch triangles. Wash the spinach leaves thoroughly under running water. Remove stems, roughly shred and keep them aside.

Peel and chop ginger and garlic. In a wok, heat oil on high heat and sauté chopped ginger and garlic. Add vegetable stock and bring it to boil. Add the tofu



pieces and light soy sauce and when it comes to a boil reduce heat and simmer for two minutes.

Add the shredded spinach leaves and simmer for a minute, stirring gently. Remove the scum to make clear soup. Add salt and pepper powder to taste and serve hot.

## BEEF AND VEGETABLE

### Ingredients

- To season and marinate the meat —
- 1 beef chuck round steak
- 2 tbsp ginger
- 1 tbsp garlic
- 2 tbsp corn starch
- 2-4 tbsp honey, depending on your taste
- 2tbsp oyster sauce
- 4 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp sesame oil
- Salt to taste
- Vegetables —

- 4 pieces bell pepper (4 colour)
- 2 carrots
- 4 scallions
- 1 large red onion
- Ginger (about a thumb size)
- 2 cloves of garlic
- 1 green chilli
- Cauliflower and broccoli
- All-purpose seasoning, to taste
- Oil of your choice

### Method

Cut beef chuck into thin slices. Wash and dry. In a bowl add beef, salt, ginger garlic paste, corn starch, honey, oyster sauce, soy sauce, and sesame oil. Mix all together. Cover and marinate for 20 minutes.

Cut all vegetable into cube size. Chop ginger, garlic and chillies. In a bowl add oyster sauce, soy sauce, corn starch, and water. Mix everything well and keep aside.

In a large wok add oil, stir fry the cauliflower and broccoli with salt and all-purpose seasoning. Let the vegetables out from the pan and keep aside. Add some oil and stir fry the marinade beef. Let the beef out from the flame and keep aside. Add

more oil in the same pan and add chopped ginger, garlic, and chillies. Stir fry the carrots and remaining vegetables for 5-6 minutes. Add fried cauliflower and broccoli. Season with salt and all-purpose seasoning. Now add the beef and prepared sauce. Stir fry for 5-6 minutes. Sprinkle spring onion and sesame oil. Serve hot and enjoy.

## PINEAPPLE WALDORF

### Ingredients

- 1 medium sized pineapple slice
- ½ cup walnut
- 1 stalk celery
- 1 bunch lettuce
- 3 tbsp mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp fresh cream
- Salt to taste
- 7-8 crushed peppercorns

### Method

Cut pineapple into half-inch sized pieces. Roast walnuts in an oven or on a tawa until a little crisp. Roughly break walnuts into smaller pieces. Crush a few walnuts to a coarse powder. Wash, trim and cut celery stalk into half-inch sized pieces. Thoroughly wash lettuce leaves and tear them into bite sized pieces.

In a mixing bowl, mix in pineapple, lettuce leaves, celery and roasted walnuts. Add mayonnaise and fresh cream. Add salt to taste and freshly crushed peppercorns. Lightly toss salad so that the dressing evenly coats the pineapple, walnuts and lettuce leaves. Garnish with coarse walnut powder and serve chilled.

**Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed**  
**Food and Styling: RBR**



## STORIES OF HOPE & STRENGTH



This year's Breast Awareness Campaign covered stories of courage, hope and strength from three brave women who won their long-enduring battle with breast cancer. Noushaba Khan Ruby shares her own story which had begun with a trivial pain in her right arm during a family dinner. Upon visiting the doctor, she discovered the lethal disease had already spread out and several lumps had accumulated from her underarm all the way to her right breast. Even though she was strictly advised to carry out her treatment abroad, her visa was denied thrice and she was unable to do so. As the last bait, she had no choice but to begin her treatment at Anwar Khan Medical College in Bangladesh. She had to undergo several heavy surgeries which left behind a broad stitch on her body permanently. A school teacher by profession, she recalls, 'My colleagues were my biggest support and my students were the ones who inspired me the most.'. The long and

enduring chemotherapy sessions from her surgeries could not hold her back and she continued to visit her workplace despite her excruciating treatment. After a long and arduous treatment timeline, Noushaba Khan Ruby finally won her battle against breast cancer and is once back to her regular lifestyle. Farida Islam shares is another breast cancer survivor who discovered her symptoms very unexpectedly. One fine afternoon when she was getting dressed for an outing with her husband, she was alarmed by the unfamiliar and sudden discomfort around her armpits. Even though she shared her concern with her husband, she was quite reluctant about it at first. However, her visit for a breast cancer checkup at Ahsania Cancer Mission Hospital revealed she was already affected by it. 'My biggest support was my husband and he took care of me throughout my journey with breast cancer.' She shared how the entire treatment process was extremely draining for her

and took a serious toll on her whole body for months. Farida Islam recalls, 'This one particular moment will ring in my head forever, it was when I was unable to walk up the aisle of the hospital. I was sure I was going to die that day.' After a year-long treatment, she finally overcame all the struggles and was free of cancer at last. She wants to convey a message to every woman out there; "Cancer doesn't kill people. It gives them an opportunity to start their lives all over again." Mrs. Nazma was the third survivor of breast cancer who grew cautious of her symptoms when she felt a lump in her breast in the shower one day. Even though she shared her concern with her husband, no one paid much attention to her. Her husband was a garment worker by profession who was not very well educated. Since her husband was not exposed to such possibilities and lacked the proper knowledge, he seemed quite reluctant towards the concern of the survivor. Despite facing strong ignorance

from her family members who were not supportive to treat her, she mustered up the courage and went to Ahsania Cancer Mission Hospital for her treatment. The doctors welcomed her with open arms and walked her through the challenging and excruciating treatment process. After becoming cancer free, she had to face a lot of criticism and bad mouthing from the society as they believed she was not fit to breastfeed anymore. However, she overcame this struggle as well and now breastfeeds her own children. Above all, she is immensely grateful to the hospital authority who treated her and her elder daughter who was her biggest support system throughout her entire journey. These journeys do not only speak of survival, they speak of striking courage and powerful strength which can inspire so many men and women out there. These women are no less than warriors.



#PRESS RELEASES

## Sailor is the Best Fashion Retailer in Bangladesh!

Bangladesh's own Sailor won the Best Fashion Retailer, Best Brand-Instore Design Award, and also grabbed an honourable mention in Best Campaign category for its 'Style on Cityscape' at the first Retail Awards of Bangladesh, organized by Bangladesh Brad Forum.

Sailor started its voyage in 2015; since then, it's been operated by a skilled workforce, and they have earned customers' trust by offering popular pricing and unique after-sales service, creating a country-wide goodwill, for which the BBF has recognized Sailor as the Best Retailer in Fashion and Apparel industry.

Sailor is among the most loved brands among the local youth. Last winter, Sailor rediscovered the beauty of the Dhaka cityscape



and showcased the city's modern lifestyle in their campaign OVC, to a tremendous response from its patrons, which led to earning BBF's honourable mention in the category.

The awards were held on October 23, 2021.

## Picsmela Organized Photographers Meetup2021

Picsmela is the first online photo technology tools operator in Bangladesh. The company organised a meetup programme for photographers at Brac Inn in Mohakhali, Dhaka on 24 October, 2021.

More than 300 photographers from all over the country including the members of Bangladesh Photographic Association (BPA) took part in the programme. S Tamzid, founder picsmela and co-founder Iftiyer Zahid were present on the day. Also present were Md Shariful Islam, Head of Operations and Mirza

Burhan Kabir, Chief Technology Officer at Picsmela.

The event was highly interactive where the photographers were shared knowledge regarding the high-end photoapp technology.

Picsmela, a homegrown photography tool, was launched on March 26 this year. Its amenities include tools which help take pictures from any digital device and pages of social media for photo manipulation with inclusion of texts, images, templates etc.

By LS Desk

## HOROSCOPE



**ARIES**  
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Don't let your partner hold you back. Make time for friends. Minor accidents are likely this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



**TAURUS**  
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Promote your ideas. Stick to things you understand better. Residential moves will be advantageous. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



**GEMINI**  
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Consider your own household first. Go after your professional goals. Work out ways to save more money. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



**CANCER**  
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Do your chores at home. Focus on getting into a committed relationship. Promote your ambitions. Finish pending projects. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



**LEO**  
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Opposition will hinder your performance. Be wiser with your choices. Someone you care about may be hiding something. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



**VIRGO**  
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Make sound financial investments. Strong willpower will come to your rescue. Don't travel unless absolutely necessary. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



**LIBRA**  
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Take on only what you can handle. Be careful when signing documents. Take advantage of your attributes. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



**SCORPIO**  
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Romance is likely if you travel. Do things to your liking. Enjoy a quiet dinner with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



**SAGITTARIUS**  
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Don't jump into investments too quickly. Problems with your partner are apparent. Be creative in your pursuits. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



**CAPRICORN**  
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Your dramatic approach to life will get tiring for your partner. Be cautious handling tools or machinery. Trips will be enjoyable. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



**AQUARIUS**  
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Avoid leaving things to chance. Make improvements that will enhance your appearance. Make extra cash through creative hobbies. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



**PISCES**  
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Make new connections professionally. Travel will be most enticing. Hobbies will be good for your emotional wellbeing. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

এখন  
**ফাস্ট ওয়াশ**  
ডিটারজেন্ট পাউডার  
১ কেজির সাথে  
১ টি  ৫৭০  
লব্ধীসোপ **ফ্রী!**









# Afsana Ferdousi in Aspara Fashion Week

The global fashion arena is brimming with vivacity as the eighth season of Aspara Fashion Week, a project that was initiated in early 2017 by one of the world's most renowned designers, Aidarkhan Kaliyev was held during 7-10 October, 2021. Given the current circumstance, this was the first virtual rendition of the international fashion show.

One of the motives of Aspara Fashion Week is to showcase the fashion scene of various countries under one platform with participation from several countries. This year, 11 eminent fashion designers from Bangladesh, who are also part of Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB) received the opportunity to feature their collection, among whom Afsana Ferdousi was one.

Afsana Ferdousi is a promising and rising fashion designer of Bangladesh who takes inspiration from our tradition and heritage and incorporates modernism in her designs.

Throughout 11 years of her dazzling career as a fashion designer, she has represented Bangladesh in several international fashion exhibitions including Aspara Fashion Week.

This year's theme for Aspara Fashion Week was to represent the heritage of the designer's respective country through attire while keeping sustainability and ethical fashion in mind. For Afsana Ferdousi, this was nothing new as sustainability and heritage have always been deeply etched in her fashion philosophy, and also reverberated in her collection for the fashion show.

"As a designer, I mainly work with fusion designs, where a blend between eastern and western fashion is evident. My line-up of dresses included pleated pants and tops, V-neck long dress, A-line dress, midi dress, and jumpsuit with frill details while accentuating the sleeves, which is my signature style," stated Afsana.

While the style ensemble may seem westernised, Afsana Ferdousi ensured Bangladesh was represented in her assemblage in multifaceted ways. Nakshi kantha, which is our heritage and pride is a style statement of the designer, and all the thread work was done in this form. Apart from the attires, every accoutrement featured was made with jute including bags, shoes, and hair accessories, which is



flowers, and joy. Every collection of Afsana Ferdousi weaves a story and autumnal glory was the one behind this collection.

The shades of light to dark blue used for fabric represented the blue skies throughout the day while the white nakshi kantha thread work weaved not only patterns but our pastoral beauty – mud houses, boats, rivers, water lilies, flowers, fish, and birds.

"My inspiration usually comes from poems, folklore, art, history, mythological tales, and nature. This time, it was deeply focused on nature," shared Afsana.

Through her participation in Aspara Fashion Week, Afsana Ferdousi did not only portray Bangladeshi fashion on an international scale, but also composed the story of our heritage, culture, and tradition to the global audience.

another representation of our heritage.

As for the collection itself, it was titled "autumn wrapped in happiness." Bangladesh is also known as the country with six seasons, and our autumn is different from elsewhere. Autumn for us is not only gloomy skies and the slow onset of chill in the air, but is also about happiness, white clouds, catkin

**By Fariha Amber**  
**Photo: Uturn Production**  
**Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia**  
**Wardrobe: Afsana Ferdousi**  
**Make-up: Orko**  
**Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha**

