

We all lead very busy lives, chasing after a million things every day. This maybe all the more reason why we often find ourselves saying, 'There is no place like home.' Barakah by Abida Rahman and Ayesha Sultana, takes this very idea and works on creating amazing home décor pieces to help us enhance the beauty of our homes. Interestingly enough, Barakah has quite the story behind its creation.

It is sometimes the toughest situations in life that lead us to discover a side of us which was either hidden or long-forgotten. Abida Rahman always had a knack for adding a touch of elegance to regular essentials such as cutlery, tissue holders, etc. Her creativity often got displayed in many corners of her and her loved ones' homes, but not beyond that.

However, this hobby took the form of work only last year in 2021 when the pandemic seemed to be at its worst. Someone in desperate need of income had come knocking at Abida's door and instead of offering temporary help, she thought of a more permanent arrangement. This eventually led to the creation of Barakah.

> Abida took up the creativity department while her sister Ayesha took charge of logistics and finances, and their business had one employee.

> > They began very small, delivering two tea boxes for their first order. A year later, today Barakah has succeeded in providing an income source to 10 families in need and help them live with a sense of fulfilment.

Barakah started their journey on a small-scale but with a broad vision; their work quality never compromised. Keeping environmental safety in mind, Barakah relies entirely on recycled wood for their wooden work.

"Sustainability is about people, planet and profit. It is about safety while we produce, and while our clients use our products," says Abida.

Their wooden products range among decorative cheeseboards, cake stands, easels, wooden frames, etc. For tea lovers and collectors,

Barakah has a rather unique tea box consisting of six compartments inside. Intricate design adorns the corners of its

square form while the top portion

comes in with handwork or clear glass. It's elegant, classy, and a perfect piece to place on dining table or a tea corner.

Their Nawar cutlery box honours the age-old Bangladeshi tradition of dawats with a selection of classic patterns and colours.

The hand block table linens, napkins, and bed sheets come in vibrant colour combination with a soft-to-touch texture. These are made using a solution from the globally renowned colour solution provider,

Archroma. Barakah uses solutions which minimise the use of water and energy while ensuring top-notch quality of the fabric.

When discussing the fabric, Rahman further added, "We chose the weave to be satin so that it has a smooth and silky texture, having the nostalgic effect of Dhakai Muslin."

Barakah looks like a one-stop solution if you are looking to beautify the special corners of your home. Why not get a piece of 'blessing' for

**By Nusrath Jahan Photo: Barakah**