



The Shaheed Minar at Thikana is structured on a four-storied building about 34 feet in height and 220 feet in width.

PHOTOS: NAYEM SHAAN



Afreen Tayeba Alif.

NURTURING DREAMS

A snapshot of nature and history in the heart of Badda

Afreen Tayeba Alif, a first-year BBA student of North South University, opened the restaurant and resort, Thikana, in Badda in 2019. One of the main attractions of the venue is a Shaheed Minar built with flowers.

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN

Afreen was inspired by her mother Afroza Begum's start-up Khan's Kitchen. "Helping my mother with her work got me interested in the food business," she shares. "I wanted to build a space as close to nature as possible, like a picnic spot or a restaurant where people could relax."

With plans for a resort in mind and a seven-month course in interior designing, the young entrepreneur set off to build Thikana. "In the beginning, I decorated the place with local flowers such as Marigold and Chandra Mallika, amongst others. It took a bit of time but when the flowers bloomed, I was stunned by how well the public responded to the place," says Afreen. "But the flowers did not last long. I did a bit of research and found out about the Japanese flower, Petunia. It grows well in winter, and comes in different colours as well."

Currently, there are over 700,000



Thikana is a beautiful resort and restaurant, offering visitors some time for relaxation, away from the hustle and bustle of the city.

Petunias decorated all over Thikana. Whenever people visit Thikana, they like to learn about the flowers. "They often ask about the flowers and even buy some to plant at home from our small shop at Thikana," mentions Afreen. "This is how I came up with the idea of building a Shaheed Minar

with flowers."

Afreen shares that if seeing flowers at Thikana can inspire guests to learn more about nature, then seeing a Shaheed Minar, which is related to our national history, will encourage them to learn more about Bangladesh.

With that noble thought in mind, Afreen started working on the Shaheed Minar at Thikana in 2021. The flower monument is structured on a four-storied building about 34 feet in height and 220 feet in width.

"I found out on the internet that no one has created a flower monument this large before," shares Afreen. "So, I contacted the Guinness World Records authorities and applied for my flower monument."

Inspectors from the Guinness World Records will be visiting Thikana for verification soon.

The author is a freelance journalist. Email: akhlakurrahmancharles@gmail.com.

TALESPEOPLE SPIELS

IT GETS BETTER

Gifts galore for our fifth year

We have one more sweet surprise coming up at the end of the month, and we're excited for our Talers to find out.

SABRINA FATMA AHMAD

Dear Reader,

It's hard to believe, but we only moved out of the sandbox provided by Litmosphere (thanks Rubaiya and Ramisa Chowdhury) two years ago, and shifted Sehri Tales © to an independent platform in 2020! We hope you've been enjoying the stories so far.

Last year, we were able to introduce sponsored posts as a way of thanking all the wonderful Talers who joined our cozy little community. Shoutout to Potetu Cooking and Vlogs and Ms Katachamoch for the cookies and discounts. This year, we were blessed by the incredible generosity of Bookworm Bangladesh who provided three fantastic novels for our top three entries for the Genie prompt, and Zest Candle and Co for providing beautiful candles for our Mars prompt. We have one more sweet surprise

coming up at the end of the month, and we're excited for our Talers to find out.

We have something for you too, dear Reader. Partnering up with DIYer, we've just launched the Sehri Tales handbook, a writing therapy journal. It comes in three attractive designs, complete with notes on short fiction forms and how to write them, and a separate sheet of prompts to springboard your creativity. It's the perfect way to while away a traffic jam when you can't look at a screen anymore, and makes a great gift. Find Talespeople or DIYer on Facebook and inbox to order. We hope you'll love it.

Stay hydrated!



ILLUSTRATION: AZMAIN MAHPARA

YOUNG ACHIEVER

Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan shortlisted for Queen's Commonwealth Trust Network

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan, the founder of Team Bertho, has been shortlisted for the Queen's Commonwealth Trust Network, which consists of more than 850 goal-oriented global leaders creating positive social changes within the Commonwealth.

"We found the opportunity to apply through their Facebook page. We decided to take a chance and were surprised to see that we were selected. It is an honour," Murshidul said. Subsequently, they were asked to join the Network Hub by March 18.



Murshidul Alam Bhuiyan. PHOTO: COURTESY

Team Bertho is a storytelling collective initiated by a group of friends in 2016. The organisation's aim of delegating human wisdom reflects the Commonwealth's shared goals including tolerance, respect and understanding, freedom and expression, gender equality and the importance of young people in the Commonwealth.

"The Commonwealth's goals are related to development, democracy and peace. Similarly, Team Bertho intends to lead to the greater cause of peace in the global community that can bring a deeper understanding of one another regardless of gender identity, race, ethnicity, religion, sexuality and economic stature," added Murshidul.

Team Bertho has turned their vision of creating an inclusive community by forming connections among people through collective consciousness and empathy. Their unique approach of spreading wisdom by story-telling allowed people to relate to their content and helped them figure out many truths about themselves and the people around them.

The organisation also helps people note their struggles and progress. They recently released the second season of 'Ichi-go Ichi-e' which is a series of live web-conferences where instructors, initiators and activists conduct sessions regarding growth, self-improvement, and skill development and awareness. The platform also launched its website and the fifth season of 'Life Tales: Berthodoler Caravan', an audio narrative show that presents intimate life experiences and lessons through short episodes.

The team is currently working on a comic series called 'Life', where profound questions about life are answered through one sentence. In the future, they aim to expand their network to all 197 countries of the world, thereby forming a global platform where people are connected through their shared experiences.

The author is a student of IBA, DU and a freelance journalist who likes reading, scribbling, and blogging. Email: mislammonamee@gmail.com.

GUIDES

5 efficient note-taking methods

If your class notes are unclear at first glance, you're not going to get much use out of them. This has nothing to do with how neat your handwriting is — it's all about how your notes are structured. One of the most effective ways to remember and understand what you are learning in class is to take effective notes in the classroom. Here are five methods that can help you.

MAISHA ISLAM MONAMEE

OUTLINE METHOD

The outlining note-taking method uses headings and bullet points to organise topics. It is most useful when learning about topics that include a lot of detail. Outlining allows your notes to be neatly organised. It is also easy to see the relationship between topics and subtopics, and turn points into study questions.

MIND MAPPING METHOD

Mind mapping is a visual way to organise your class notes. This technique is useful when learning about relationships between topics. You begin the map with the main topic, and then branch off it by writing headings for each of the subtopics. Write any important details under each subtopic, and continue the pattern.

FLOW NOTES METHOD

Flow notes involve jotting down topics, then drawing arrows, doodles, diagrams, and graphs for a broader view. Similar to mind maps, they are most useful when simplifying complex topics and connecting the dots, especially during revisions.

GOING DIGITAL

Many apps now come in handy when recording your notes, and linking them to books and resources suggested on the internet. These apps allow you to copy texts and add images and graphs while scribbling down important points. With apps like Evernotes, Notability and Microsoft OneNote, effective note-taking is just a click away.

BOXING METHOD

For this method, all related notes are grouped together in a box. A dedicated

box is assigned to each section of notes, which cuts down the time needed for reading and reviewing. Digital note-taking apps are more helpful in this regard, as the content on the pages can be reordered or resized subsequently. This way, you can just write down notes as you would normally do, and then reorder and assign them to particular boxes.



ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD