

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 34, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023
FALGUN 1, 1429 BS

Star
LIFE
Style

E-mail: lifestyleds@yahoo.com
64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. A publication of The Daily Star

Spring *into* the SEASON

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TRY SOME SWEETS: **P8**

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED • MODEL: TANGIA ZAMAN METHILA • MAKE-UP: ORKO • STYLING: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA • SET: ESKAY BY SAIMUL KARIM



Feel the essence of Valentine at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden

To mark the romantic occasion, Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden has curated a host of exciting and unique experiences, starting from lovely dinner buffets to signature set menus with memorable staycation packages under a program named “Essence of Valentine’s”.

A press release says, on 14th February, a pleasant Valentine’s lunch buffet priced at BDT 3200++ at the hotel’s signature restaurant, Water Garden Brasserie waits for everyone. The same day in the evening, for the most exclusive

and intimate Valentine’s celebration, lovebirds can enjoy a mouth-watering Valentine’s Gourmet Six Course Dinner with impeccable flavours priced at BDT 8,900++ at the hotel’s internationally accredited Sublime Restaurant located

at the topmost floor overlooking the Poolside Water Garden with breathtaking views of the city.

The Valentine’s Signature Program offers a sumptuous Essence of Valentine’s Signature Dinner Buffet priced at BDT 7,900++ with exciting entertainments at the magnificent Poolside Water Garden.

Moreover, patrons will be happy to avail the “Buy One Get One Free” offer for all buffets with selected credit cards.

This event is supported by BRAC

Bank as Prime Partner for the beautiful Valentine décor, Novo Air as Airline Partner where guests will be happy to avail the opportunity to win Dhaka – Kolkata – Dhaka and Dhaka - Cox’s Bazar - Dhaka as couple air tickets and Diamond World Ltd as Gift Partner where guests can get the chance to win a lovely gift.

All prices are subjected to 15 per cent VAT and 12.5 per cent service charge. For dining reservations, please call at these numbers 01730089130, 01313030307.



ফাস্ট ওয়াশ

সাদা আব এক নাশ

১০ মিনিটে পাওয়ার ওয়াশিং এর ম্যাজিক

কাপড়ের যে কোন দাগ ময়লাকে নিখিঁচ দূর করে

কাপড়ের রঙকে রাখে নতনের মতো স্বচ্ছকে

It's the season of love

MEMOIRÉ

OUR VALENTINES DAY COLLECTION

OUR VALENTINES DAY COLLECTION

#FASHION

JEWELLERY BY AMISHEE:

Valentine's Day serves as a day of grand celebrations and appreciation of the love shared between two individuals.

It is an opportunity to express affection and solidify the bond between partners. In seeking to make the occasion particularly memorable and meaningful, a gift of exclusive and unique jewellery serves as the ideal choice. Jewellery embodies the essence of love and commitment, making it the perfect gift for couples who have been together for many years or for those embarking on a new and exciting journey in their relationships. When gifting this treasured possession, one not only offers a physical item but also conveys a message of love and devotion that will endure for eternity.

Memoiré, an exclusive collection by Amisheé, is a line of alluring jewellery that is sure to turn heads. Memoiré, in its true definition, stands for memory. For this Valentine's Day, Amisheé wants your valentine to experience the cherished memory of love in the form of their new collection. Whether you are looking for the perfect gift for your better half or treating yourself to a special piece, Memoiré has something for everyone.

The collection features a range of dreamy colours and exquisite designs, all designed with the highest quality gems and materials.

The green emerald earrings perfectly exemplify Amisheé's attention to detail. These beautiful earrings feature radiant green emeralds that are set in gold, creating

a stunning contrast that is sure to draw compliments. Whether dressed up or dressed down, these earrings are a great way to add a touch of luxury to your everyday look.

The classic diamond studded rings are another standout piece in the Memoiré Collection. Wrapped in gold, every detail is truly mesmerising, and the intricate designs that surround them only add to their beauty. Whether you are looking for a statement ring or a simple yet elegant piece, the blue sapphire rings are sure

The ultimate gift of LOVE

to meet your needs.

You can also opt for their heart-shaped diamond neckpieces. The shimmering diamonds, set upon the gleaming metal, imbue the chain with a radiant beauty that is sure to captivate and enchant. Your partner will forever keep this Memoiré close to their heart.

If your loved one appreciates a beautiful blend of diamond and pearl statement pieces, then the Memoiré Collection also has something special for her. The delicate interplay between the sparkling diamonds and the soft lustre of the pearls creates a mesmerising visual contrast that is both ethereal and sophisticated. The diamonds, set in gleaming metal, add a touch of brilliance and glamour, while the pearls lend a touch of classic elegance.

Finally, the red ruby sets are the ultimate in luxury. These sets feature glittering red rubies that will definitely create a mesmerising combination of colour and sparkle. Whether you are looking for a gift for your life partner or someone you admire, these sets are a great choice.

The Memoiré Collection by Amisheé is a true testament to the beauty of gem-set jewellery. With its dreamy colours, exquisite designs, and high-quality materials, this collection is sure to be treasured for a lifetime.

By K Jole
Photo: Amisheé

AMISHEE
FINE JEWELLERY



Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day: A fusion of love, culture, and fashion

In our quest to find 2-in-1 in everything, we have somehow managed to merge two different celebrations together as well. February 14th is a case in point. For the last few years, we have been celebrating Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day on the same date. Whether you are celebrating with your significant other or with friends and family, this day is all about expressing your love and having a good time.

With Pahela Falgun and Valentine's Day coinciding, you might be wondering what to wear to make the most of this special occasion. The answer is simple — you can wear traditional and colourful clothes that reflect the cultural significance of Falgun and the theme of love.

Women can choose to wear a sari or a salwar kameez in a bright and bold colour, such as red or pink, which symbolises love and passion. Pair it with statement flower jewellery and matching shoes to create a look that is both traditional and fashionable. Bright-coloured jumpsuits can also be an option for women who want to try something different. A nice pair of block heels can be the perfect footwear to complete the look.

Men can opt for a panjabi or a kurta in a bright and cheerful colour, like yellow or green, which symbolises the arrival of spring. Pair it with jeans and sneakers for a modern and stylish look.

No matter how you plan to celebrate this special day, make sure to wear something that reflects the essence of the day. Show your love and appreciation for your loved ones, embrace the cultural significance of Pahela Falgun, and let your fashion sense do the talking!

So, go ahead, and make this a day to remember!

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Lia

Wardrobe: Humaira Khan Falgun

Make-up: Orko

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Set: Eskay by Saimul Karim



The best Valentine's Day offers in Dhaka



#PRESS RELEASE

The Flourist steps into its 11th year

The Flourist, one of the leading online cake studios in Dhaka, is stepping into their 11th year on February 13th. Founded by pastry chef Saria Saguaro in 2013, the team creates custom cakes, desserts, and bakery items daily, said a press release.

Operating out of their Gulshan 2 studio, they accommodate same-day orders and deliveries. They also cater to birthday parties and dinners and work as a vendor for other cafes and restaurants.

Known for their seasonal cake launches, this Valentine's Day try one of their many gift boxes starting at only Tk 650! Also on offer are delicious cakes in 18 different flavours that come with a bouquet of roses starting for Tk 1760. Their Valentine's Day offer includes cupcakes (5 pcs; Tk 1000), novelty heart cakes (1kg; Tk 2500), and Valentine's Day assortment box (Tk 1000) among other goodies like donut boxes, etc.

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed



Everyone wants to make Valentine's Day a memorable occasion. Restaurants, online boutiques, and bakeries also have special Valentine's Day offers to help you celebrate love in a befitting manner. From intimate dinners and luxurious staycations, to sweet and savoury delicacies and small totems of affection, here are the best Valentine's Day offers.

Handcrafted Gift Box by Khata Khori

If you are looking for a gift, this extremely cute and thoughtful handcrafted gift box by Khata Khori can be the ideal choice. The box, which retails for Tk 500 contains a handmade notebook, a greeting card, four bookmarks, and ten, mini, heart-shaped papers. You can add your own touch to this by adding a personal note to your beloved.

Valentine's Day Special Gift Box by Oshi Sushis

If your loved one does not have a sweet tooth then look no further than this amazing limited edition special box by Oshi Sushis. The box contains a piece of love maki, seafood bulgogi, chicken steak, fried rice, shrimp tempura, chicken lollipop, and fried wonton. Happy stomach, happy soulmate, right? This hits the spot, to be honest! The box also comes with a piece of rose to symbolise the day. All this for just Tk 1200!

The Way Dhaka dinner offer

Candlelit dinners and Valentine's Day

go hand-in-hand, and The Way Dhaka is offering you and your partner a gateway to a night filled with good food and magical memories with their dinner offers. The first is a rooftop buffet dinner with live music and a complimentary red velvet cake at Tk 5,499 for two. The second offer involves a five-course dinner by the pool at Tk 9,999 for two. This too comes with a complimentary cake.

Staycation at the InterContinental Dhaka

Ending the list with one of the most luxurious staycation offers of the season. Your night will begin with InterContinental picking you and your loved one up in a Luxury Sedan and taking you to their hotel where a Presidential Suite will await you. This will be followed up by an in-suite seven-course gourmet dinner on the 14th followed by an in-room romantic breakfast and in-suite five-course gourmet lunch the next day. The offer also comes with a personal photographer for an hour and your very own musician.

Not only that, it includes drinks of your choice, cakes and chocolate boxes, and in-room decoration to set the mood. In addition, you and your partner will also have full access to their pool and health club.

The package will set you back Tk 75,000 net.

By Irfan Aziz



#PERSPECTIVE



Perhaps, the answer to the question is simple. It is what most people say it is — ‘red in its most vibrant shade.’ The maddening brightness of red roses, the sea of flowering poppies, the luscious red lips of my beloved — the shade does have a claim to fame as ‘the colour of love.’ Many would say pink represents love in its truest form. They would argue that the warmth of the shade compliments the softness of the emotion.



What is the colour of LOVE?

The cosy feeling of being in love for the first time — these helpless romantics will cry — can only be expressed through pink! Renegades will differ still. For many, love lies in the coolness of purple. True it is most commonly associated with affluence, wealth, and royalty, the colour to some extent can still signify love.

The debate continues... Important links exist between colours and human emotions. Our moods are affected by the way we perceive our natural surroundings and colour plays a very important role. The human fascination to find attributes to his beguiling emotions is not new. Certain images evoke particular sensations

within us, and we tend to refer back to the colour whenever we need to represent that feeling.

Colours can make us happy; they have the power to make us sad; some shades tend to soothe our souls; others tend to ignite fiery passion within us. This has been so because of the deeply rooted biological conditioning in us; this is also a result of cultural imprinting. Thus, society, values, aesthetics, and purely individual taste dictate what colour we associate with love.

In the predominant Western culture, it is red drawing its symbolism from the colour of blood. As the shade that embodies longing, bordering carnal

desire, red is clearly the colour of choice for many to express their love.

Come February, the sale of roses soars across the country, as we celebrate the coming of spring, the season of love. Lately, the first day of the season coincides with the day of expressing and celebrating romance in the modern context, which only means a boon in trade. We express romance through red velvet cakes, and cuddly, stuffed bears wearing red bowties.

So, is the case closed? Hardly! As a point can be made for pink and purple, a similar example can be drawn, based on popularity, for green and even blue! In all possibilities, the answer remains

within the hearts of the romantics. A case of to each his own. In the words of Billy Ocean —

*What is the colour of love
Oh, tell me, tell me
Oh, I wanna know, I wanna know
(I see the colour of love)
When I'm thinking of you
As a picture-perfect painting
Of love forever true.*

By Pothbhola
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Tangia Zaman Methila
Make-up: Orko
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Set: Eskay by Saimul Karim



Star **LIFE** Style

DESHI MIX

SALINA PARVIN



Pahela Falgun: Recipes for a celebration

Only the romantic at heart celebrated the arrival of Falgun in yesteryears. This has now become a national celebration. If you are planning to invite friends and family on this joyous occasion, here are some suggestions that will make delightful evening snacks.

COCONUT LADDU**Ingredients**

2 cups coconut, grated
2 tbsp ghee
¼ cup desiccated coconut for coating the ball
2 cups sweetened condensed milk
½ tsp cardamom powder

Method

In a saucepan, heat ghee and add coconut stirring continuously for 4-5 minutes. The coconut will soon start to get fragrant. Do not overheat otherwise the desiccated coconut will change colour. Add condensed milk and mix well with the coconut. Cook on low heat for about 20 minutes. The mixture will get a fudge-like consistency. Turn off the heat and let the mixture cool slightly. Form small balls with the coconut mixture. Roll the balls onto the desiccated coconut to form a coat. Optionally, you can garnish with slivers of almonds or pistachio.

MIHIDANA**Ingredients**

250g gram flour or besan
200g sugar
½ cup mixed dry fruit
1 tbsp ghee
Oil for deep fry
Water as required
A few drops of yellow food colour

Method

In a bowl, mix gram flour with enough water to form a thin liquid paste. To make a sugar syrup, add 1 cup water, sugar, and ghee. Allow it to boil for about 5-6 minutes. Add food colour. In a deep pan, heat oil and pass the batter through a sieve so that it forms small round balls. Fry them on medium flame until it turns golden brown. Now transfer them to the sugar syrup. Allow it to soak for about 30 minutes and then drain the excess syrup and keep the mihidana aside. Mix chopped dry fruits and serve.

TIL GOJA**Ingredients**

2 cups refined flour
2 tbsp sesame seeds
1 cup sugar
A pinch of baking powder
2 tbsp ghee
2 green cardamoms
1 tbsp lemon juice
Salt to taste
Oil for deep fry

Method

Combine sugar, water, and cardamom pods in a heavy-bottom pan. Bring to a boil. Stir frequently. As the syrup thickens, reduce the heat and test the consistency.



#CHECK IT OUT

Food & Recipes Puro's Cake for your Valentine?

Valentine's Day has stood for love and fidelity among couples since its inception. And what better way to express your admiration and love for your partner than with a delicious cake? A cake is a great Valentine's Day gift for a number of reasons.

To begin with, cakes have traditionally been a traditional Valentine's Day gift. This customary and classic gift stands for adoration, love, and devotion. It shows your spouse that you spent time and thought into your gift and are committed to making their day special. And why not complete the perfect day with



a heart-shaped red velvet cake from Puro Pastry and Bakery's Valentine's Special? It's not only ideal for the situation, but it will definitely win your significant other's affection!

Puro's Valentine's Heart Shaped Red Velvet Cake is not only a wonderful treat on its own, but also makes a wonderful

Valentine's Day gift because it is made with organic ingredients and is satisfying in every bite. This special cake will be offered starting on February 13 with a flower included in every purchase as the cherry on top, providing and maintaining food safety from the production chain to consumers through 13 outlets citywide. If that's not enough, Puro Pastry and Bakery is also HACCP 22000-2018 and ISO certified! This

Valentine's Day, Puro's Heart Shaped Red Velvet cake might be the treat for you!

Cakes can set the ideal mood for spending quality time with your special someone on Valentine's Day because they are also meant to be shared. Whether you share a slice of cake as a sweet treat during a nice night in or as a romantic supper, a cake is a terrific way to bring the two of you closer together.

Additionally, even though cakes may be a welcome surprise, consider adding a Valentine's Special Gift Box from Puro Pastry and Bakery to up the ante! Think about your partner's reaction if you surprise them with exquisitely decorated desserts like a Red Velvet Brownie, a Giant Chocolate Chip Cookie, a Doughnut, and a Piece of Valentine's Cake all included in the gift box! Their day will be made better, and your Valentine will look absolutely adorable.

After receiving the traditional pastry as a gift, you should and can enjoy it with your special someone. So why not treat your special someone to a delicious Puro's Heart Shaped Red Velvet cake on Valentine's Day? It will undoubtedly make people happy and create enduring memories.

For more information, check out: <https://www.facebook.com/PuroPastryAndBakery/>

By K Jole
Photo: Puro

Pahela Falgun: Recipes for a celebration

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Once the sugar syrup has reached a two-string consistency, turn off the heat and add lemon juice (this prevents the syrup from crystallising). Keep warm.

In a bowl, mix flour, sesame seeds, salt, and baking powder. Add ghee and work it well into the mixture. Add water little by little and knead until a stiff dough is formed. Divide the dough into equal portions, and using a rolling-pin rollout into ovals. Make several slashes on the ovals with a knife. Heat sufficient ghee or oil in a pan and deep-fry the gojas until light brown and crisp. Remove with a slotted spoon and place on an absorbent paper to remove excess oil or ghee. Dip the fried gojas in sugar syrup. Coat rapidly and remove quickly. Toss until dry and crisp.

BINNI CHALER MALAI KHEER **Ingredients**

½ cup binni rice
1 tbsp ghee
2 litre full-fat milk
1 cup condensed milk
½ cup grated coconut
Sugar as required
2 tbsp sliced almond and pistachio

Method

Rinse rice and soak in water for 30 minutes and drain. Add ghee to the rice and keep it aside. Take a saucepan and pour milk into it. Turn on the gas to medium-high flame and



keep stirring. Once the milk starts reducing, add the ghee-mixed rice and simmer the mixture until it is reduced to almost half. Add coconut and condensed milk to it. Mix well and add sugar if required.

Add mixed nuts and mix well. Cook for 2 minutes. Turn off the flame, garnish with nuts, and serve warm or chilled.

MAWA HABSHI HALWA **Ingredients**

1 cup cottage cheese
1 cup mawa

1 tbsp all-purpose flour
4 tbsp ghee
½ tsp cardamom powder
¼ cup slivered almond

Method

Heat ghee in a pan. Add cottage cheese and stir well. Add mawa and mix properly with cheese. Add sugar and cardamom powder. Stir well until sugar dissolves completely. Add flour and ghee. This will make the mixture glossy. Continue to stir and once the halwa starts to leave the sides of the pan, sprinkle nuts over it. Mix well until combined. To set the halwa, grease a large plate with ghee. Transfer the cooked halwa to it and press evenly. Allow it to cool down and cut it



into pieces. Garnish with nuts and serve.

SHAKKARPARA

Ingredients

1 cup whole wheat flour
1 cup refined flour
4 tbsp ghee
Salt to taste
Oil for deep fry
1 cup water
1 cup sugar

Method

Mix whole wheat flour, refined flour, ghee, sugar, and salt with a little water and knead into a tight dough. Keep it covered with a damp cloth for half an hour. Divide the dough into five to six equal balls. Roll out each ball into a flat chapatti of three millimetre thickness. Cut it into diamond-shaped pieces with a pastry cutter or knife. Heat oil in a pan and deep fry over medium heat until brown and crisp. Drain onto an absorbent paper and cool.

To make the sugar syrup —

In a pan, add sugar and water and bring it to a boil. Reduce heat to medium and keep stirring until sugar dissolves. Check for sugar consistency between fingers. As soon as the sugar syrup thickens, turn off the heat and add all the cooked shakarpara in it. Start mixing the syrup and shakarpara together. You will see the syrup sticking to the shakarpara. Now the shakarpara are ready to be served or packed in an airtight container once completely cooled.

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Food: Selina Parvin

DIY project for couples: Painting your new home

Moving into a new place with your partner is truly an adventure of a lifetime. You get to start the process of building a new home from scratch. Bring some life to the empty canvas that is going to house the next chapter of your life, so start by painting your new place. It is also the perfect task to build your relationship. You will get to find out how well you work as a team.

Here are a few things that you need to keep in mind before starting to paint your house.

Giving equal priority to both of your taste

This is a combined journey and you two are a team. Remember, you two are also colourful and vibrant as individuals. Your home must represent all of these elements. While you may exert your individuality in colouring your own spaces (if there are any), remember that you two must agree on something similar for the common spaces you two will share.

Selecting a theme

Every room should have a theme and its own story. The bedroom is a place to relax and a more soothing, pastel colour palette will adequately represent that. On the flipside, if you have a home office, that space should sport a louder and a vibrant



palette to make it energetic. A soothing shade will do the living-dining area some good as well as most of the light your home gets enters through this area. Keep a wall free, which can later be turned into a mural to truly give your home a unique touch.

Covering up furniture and surfaces

An essential part of the process is to ensure that the paint only reaches its intended surface. Wrap up other surfaces such as floors as well as furniture with



newspaper before you commence with the task. This will save you from the hassle of having to clean up later not to mention that it will protect furniture from being ruined.

Painting from top to bottom

This means taking care of the ceiling first and then moving downwards gradually. Assuming that this will be your first time painting, you might get overexcited and start doing the walls immediately which

will come back to haunt you later.

Remembering to have fun

Just remember that this is a brand-new experience for you and your partner. So, do not get too carried away with getting things right. Have fun, enjoy each other's company and things will come together on their own.

By Irfan Aziz

Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

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#FASHION

Trends to say goodbye to in spring 2023

Another season has arrived in a grand style, shaking us out of a drowsy stupor. Spring holds so much promise of better days, better possibilities, more opportunities, and another grand chance to do things in life. The season also calls for major fashion changes, but before tiptoeing towards newer styles, here is a list of fashion ideas that one must avoid.

Oversized clothing

Spring means a newer, better you. This brilliant being who is fantastically motivated, sorted, and amazingly fabulous deserves clothes that reflect her inner brilliance and not hide it beneath layers and layers of unnecessary, not to mention

unflattering clothing.

The past seasons saw fashion experts turning out in massive jumpers, puffy jackets, and voluminous sweatshirts that influenced street style heavily, but this time there is a total turnaround from that. Opt for slimmer silhouettes that accentuate your body in the best possible way. Get rid of excess baggage!

Animal prints

We all want to channel that inner lioness, tigress, cheetah, or whatever one's spirit animal may be. We did that and how in every possible way last year. And that's where it belongs now, in the past. Ditch the animal prints in favour of fresh florals, classy

stripes, demure polka dots, or just plain but stunning solid colours!

Extreme platform heels

Your ankles and calf muscles are pretty amazing. Give them the love they deserve by donating your chunky, heavy platform heels to whoever is willing to accept them. These shoes are not the classiest footwear to have ever been designed and are ridiculously uncomfortable. If you must wear them, opt for slimmer, flattering versions that do not look and feel vertiginous.

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Make sure your information is correct. Financial gains are likely. Make amends if you can. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Focus on projects that improve your image. Spend time with your partner. Your talents will shine at work. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Focus on what's important. It's time to slow things down. Rare opportunities will unfold this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Use your high energy to make progress at work. Expect insincere gestures this week. Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Health problems will ruin your plans. Don't be impatient with things. Don't put your partner down. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Your affectionate nature will attract your romantic interest. You will make sense of things this week. Do let colleagues hinder your ambitions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Your boss may be pushy. Love can be yours if you go out. Don't let emotions affect your professional performance. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Relationships may not be going well. Your charm will dazzle others. Take part in stimulating debates. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Home improvement projects will be beneficial. Avoid getting involved in joint financial ventures. Opportunities to travel will develop through peers. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Hard work will not go unnoticed. You will have some competition this week. Get involved in physical activities. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Your partner won't understand your needs. Keep an open mind. Don't let others know of your intentions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Property investments will bring financial gains. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions. Ask for help if you feel overwhelmed. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



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Selecting furniture: Suggestions for new couples

Moving into your own place with your partner means that you can get out of your parent's place and finally get to dictate things as you wish. The first concern you need to keep in mind as you embark on a journey of buying new furniture is that the new 'in' thing is to allow your house to breathe. You can do this by buying trendy and minimalist furniture that serves the purpose with style and finesse while giving your house more free space.

Here are some styles, options, and philosophies you and your partner can explore while buying new furniture.

Scandinavian designs

Scandinavian designs made the less is more philosophy famous. Their clean approach focuses on both styles and substance. There is nothing complicated about them and they have only one purpose: to eliminate clutter and thus keep things clean and simple.

Scandinavian designs strip furniture of any unnecessary highlighting and only keep the elements essential to its beauty and functions. They mostly make use of neutral and monochromatic colours as the base and then catch your eye with other shades as accents. Think of a charcoal black couch with sage green cushions. Simply majestic!

The designs also typically use organic materials to uphold the relationship the Scandinavian countries have with nature. Wood, cotton, and wool are all prevalent in



a Scandinavian-themed house.

Wabi-sabi

Wabi-sabi, the traditional Japanese aesthetics, also focuses on scaling down and decluttering your home to keep only what is necessary. It appreciates the simpler things in life and heavily focuses on a neutral palette that involves browns, greys, greens, whites, and off-whites as its core. This palette

also creates a sense of serenity and harmony by allowing natural light. Wabi-sabi furniture embraces imperfections and materials such as stone and timber are commonly used.

Upcycled furniture

Upcycling old furniture and repurposing them gives you creative freedom. This will also help you create everything from scratch, and allow you to bond and spend

more quality time with your partner as you embark on several creative journeys. Think about taking your grandma's old cabinet and giving it a completely new look. You can literally turn anything into the minimalist furniture of your choice.

By Irfan Aziz

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed/
Nazneen Haque Mimi

