



#CHECK IT OUT

THE SPLENDOUR OF SYLHET

Nestled in the picturesque Surma Valley amidst scenic tea plantations and lush green tropical forests, Sylhet is blessed with several picturesque places of interests. With easy connectivity by rail, road, and air from Dhaka, it has been a prime tourist destination.

Located on the bank of the Surma River, Sylhet is one of the oldest cities in Bangladesh, having a vast historical and cultural background. Originally part of the Bengal Presidency and later Eastern Bengal and Assam; Sylhet was part of Colonial Assam between 1874 and 1947 when, following a referendum and the partition of British India, it then became part of the then East Pakistan.



Sylhet plays a vital role in the economy of Bangladesh and is home to some of the largest natural gas fields and tea plantations. The geography of Sylhet consists mainly of hills, and a few large natural water bodies known locally as "haors." During winter, these haors are vast stretches of green land, but in the rainy season, they turn into turbulent seas. These haors provide a sanctuary to the millions of migratory birds who fly from Siberia across the Himalayas to avoid the severe cold there. One such Haor, the Hakaluki Haor is a popular tourist destination, covering Barlekha Upazila of Moulvibazar District and Fenchuganj and Golapganj Upazila of Sylhet District.

As we left the airport, we were overcome by the scenic landscape of the Malnicherra

Tea Estate. Established by Lord Hurdson, with commercial cultivation of tea beginning in the Malnicherra Estate in 1849, this is considered as one of the oldest and largest tea gardens in the subcontinent.

During our visit, we decided to take a city tour. The city is described as the "City of Saints," with the Holy shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R) located at heart of the city. We first visited both the *Dargah* and offered prayers.

We then stopped at Jitu Miar Bari, an architectural garden palace in the heart of the city. The elegant white painted mansion amidst manicured garden speaks of the glorious past.

Our next destination was the Keane Bridge located over the Surma River, one of the most recognisable landmarks of Sylhet.

Built in 1936, the iron bridge is named after Sir Michael Keane, who was the English Governor of Assam from 1932 to 1937. The century-old bridge, unable to bear any significant weight, is now relegated to pedestrians and rickshaws. During the Liberation War, the bridge was blown off with dynamite by the Pakistan Army and severely damaged.

Nearby is the Ali Amjad Clock, the oldest clock tower of Bangladesh, located on the bank of the Surma River. It is locally known as "Ghori Ghar." The tower was constructed in 1872 by Ali Amjad's father, Nawab Moulvi Ali Ahmed Khan, just two years before he was born.

We set off in the morning for an hour-long drive from Sylhet to reach Sreemangal, "The land of two leaves and a bud." Famous for some of the largest tea gardens, covered by lush green carpet, Sreemangal has been nicknamed the "tea capital of Bangladesh," due to the number of tea gardens in the

area, and is the place of origin of the Seven Colour Tea. Bangladesh produces and exports large quantity of high-quality tea every year. On the way, we witnessed the mesmerising terraced tea gardens, pineapple, rubber and lemon plantations. On entering the tea estates, we were blown away by the rich aroma of the tea leaves and saw women in colourful attire plucking leaves. We later settled for a sumptuous lunch at a local restaurant much to our gastronomic delight.

We also visited Tamabil and Jaflong, popular tourist destinations on the Sylhet-Shillong Road, an hour's drive from Sylhet. Situated amidst splendid panorama, Tamabil is a border outpost. On the way, several waterfalls across the border provided enchanting views. With the forested mountainous backdrop and streams of clear waters flowing with thousands of rolling stones littered from nearby mountains, Jaflong offered a perfect postcard view amidst tea gardens.

Our next destination was the Ratargul, a freshwater swamp forest located in the Gowain River, about 30 kilometres from Sylhet. It is dubbed as the Second Sundarban. On reaching the bank of the river, we availed a 20-minute boat ride that would bring us to Ratargul. A small walk up the hill and we were then astounded by the captivating beauty of the surroundings. We took an hour-long boat cruise through the lake. Many of the trees appeared like grottos in the middle of the water bodies, thus providing a magnificent view. Calm, tranquil, enveloped in green foliage, with the chirping of local birds, the entire ambience was simply mind-blowing.

By Dr Shamim Ahmed
Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed



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In My BARBIE World

PINK FOR EVERYONE P3
FINDING THE IDEAL STYLE FOR MEN
EVOLUTION OF AN ICON C-P8
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RECIPES TO CELEBRATE YOUR BARBIE MOOD

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED
MODEL: EFA TABASSUM
STYLING: SONIYA YEASMIN ISHA
MUA: SUMON
SET DESIGN: ESKAY BY SAIMUL KARIM



পোলার্ড
বোবাস্তা
সল্টেড
ক্যারামেল
রিয়ল চকোলেট
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RICHER & CREAMIER

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#FASHION & BEAUTY

How to pull off pink in men's fashion

Summer is here and the fashionable men wearing pink look cool as ever! Now that the colour pink has reached the concept of gender-neutral wearing, men's fashion trends worldwide are drawn to it. A plethora of fashion and styling is waiting to be discovered in men's pink clothing, from casual to formal attire. Here are some style guides for you to get on with the trend and rock men's pink clothing.

Shades and pink

Pink is one of the most versatile colours since it complements so many standard menswear shades. Pink goes well with neutral colours like grey, blue, and brown. It also looks best with darker hues like navy blue, black, grey, and white. So, the remainder of your colour scheme may be chosen with relative ease. If your complexion is fair, a darker pink will look better on you. On the other hand, a pastel or light pink looks good on darker skin.

Classy pink

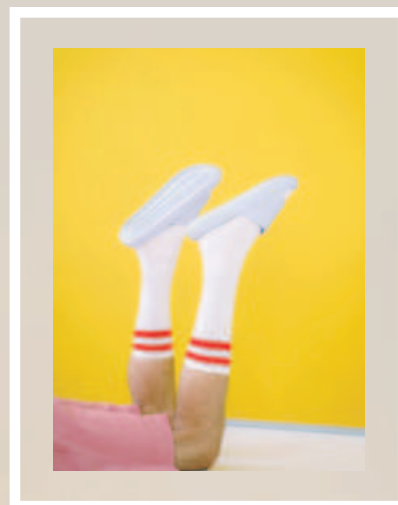
Every guy needs a pink long-sleeved shirt in his closet. Perhaps you already have one hiding out under the guise of "salmon" colour! A pink Oxford shirt is probably one of the best options for tackling pink with elegance for men. If you want to avoid wearing a suit to work but yet want to seem polished, try pairing a pale pink Oxford shirt with light chinos. Moreover, a grey or blue suit paired with a pink shirt is a classic combination



that you absolutely must have in your wardrobe.

Traditional pink

Pink kurtas are also amazing to add to your closet! You may pick from a broad choice of basic cotton kurtas, kurtas with block patterns, and



Formal pink

These days, a pink blazer is a wardrobe must. Blazer fabrics range from linen and cotton to polyester and silk, among many others. The finest appearance for weddings or other formal events may be achieved by selecting from a broad variety of patterns, such as floral, checkered, solid, geometric, etc. This season, salmon pink and coral pink, two warm colours that do not fail to impress, are ideal for adorning blazers and coats.

Fun pink

If you want to try out the cheerful pink colour without making a complete commitment to your outfits, go for pink accessories. Pink may be shown off with the help of some cool and fun accessories. Socks, hats, belts, and pocket squares are all easy accessories to play around with. But if you want to keep things understated, choose just one item in that shade. In fact, a trainer bag or bum bag is one of the most popular pink accessories for guys!

Put simply, pink is vibrant and strong and complements many men's natural complexions and personalities. So, now is the time to go and try out your pink fashion to appear confident, attractive, and successful anywhere.

By Samayla Mahjabin Koishy
Photo: Collected



Retail Remedy celebrates Barbie and inclusivity

The “Barbie” movie has generated significant excitement worldwide and Bangladesh is not immune from this hype. This movie aims to showcase Barbie’s timeless appeal while focusing on the ongoing conversation around diversity and inclusivity. Taking inspiration from the “Barbiecore” trend—a fashion movement that celebrates Barbie’s iconic looks and her positive image of empowerment and self-expression—Retail Remedy, a clothing brand specialising in casual and formal wear, launched an online giveaway—the ‘Barbie Look Contest.’

“Our goal had been to celebrate Barbie in all shapes, forms, and colours. So, we launched this contest where people can tag themselves in their Barbie looks. They didn’t have to wear Retail Remedy; everyone could wear the clothes they liked,” said Rabita



Rashid Majumder, Managing Director of Retail Remedy.

Additionally, Rabita informed, “The ideology of inclusivity is at the heart of our brand and as the Barbie movie is trending a lot, which very much goes with our brand and mindset, we decided to run this online giveaway.”

Anyone could participate in this online giveaway—the “Barbie Look Contest,” which ended on 31 July, 2023. All you had to do was follow 3 steps to win. First, follow and like the Facebook and Instagram pages of Retail Remedy and tag your Barbie look on social media with the caption ‘Barbie Look Contest by #retailremedy.rr.’ And lastly, mention your friend in the comment section.

By winning this contest, you would get a free Barbie movie ticket and a gift hamper by Retail Remedy. As the Barbie movie evokes a sense of nostalgia for many of us, Retail Remedy had chosen this campaign, inspired by the Barbie movie, to reminisce about this beloved doll.

“Remember how we used to play with Barbies when we were little? We wanted to bring back those memories through this campaign. Along with it, we promoted our products,” explained Benazir Aunon Sarker, Director of Retail Remedy.

Retail Remedy is selling different merchandise that goes with the Barbiecore movement and in turn, the Barbie movie itself. You will find beautiful, breathable, and elegant satin shirts and flared pants

on Retail Remedy’s website, perfect for channelling your inner Barbie, a look that embraces femininity and playfulness.

The Barbie movie and Barbiecore movement intend to break free from traditional beauty ideals, embracing all body types, genders and ethnicity. With this same thought, Retail Remedy is selling unisex products, which can be worn by both men and women. And the multicoloured Kaftan shirts are too beautiful to ignore!

Essentials—

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RetailRemedy.RR/>

Website: <https://rr.international/>

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Retail Remedy



Women on Wheel empowering women in Bangladesh’s automotive scene

Women on Wheel Bangladesh is a community of exceedingly motivated and driven women who want to change the very culture and perception of women drivers in Bangladesh. They are a superb movement that combines empowerment, skill-building, community bonding and creating an inclusive atmosphere for women.



#FASHION & BEAUTY

Barbiecore for BENGALI BEAUTIES

Wherever your eyes rest these days, chances are there's a profusion of all things Barbie — pink, pink and some more glitter! Barbiecore, an aesthetic where one embraces pink in all its glory, especially the shades largely associated with the most famous doll ever created, Barbie. Don't mistakenly consider this as your daughter's obsession with Barbie accoutrements. This is a trend meant for grown women and revisiting their inner little girls in a chic, fashionable way. To say that we are here for it would be an understatement, naturally! It's not just because we women love all things pink and glittery. That's a fact well-established and universally acknowledged. But Barbie is not just a mere doll; she is an inspiration for little girls everywhere to pursue their dreams and be their best selves in life. Which is why one would be hard-pressed to find another doll with a

repertoire as impressive and extensive as Barbie's — from an astronaut to a brain surgeon to just a girl who loves to dress up and have fun — she has done it all. Most women who grew up during the 80's, 90's and 2000's have glorious memories with Barbie. Relatives or family members travelling abroad would always bring back Barbie dolls as must-anticipated gifts which would then get a place of pride amongst other lesser toys with zero character! Barbie has been created in every race, form, and style relevant to its time and that makes it so unique yet iconic. Plus, the fact that she looks like a dream is always an added bonus!

Barbiecore is a raging trend that must be given at least a shot. It is here to stay and rule with a pink fist! Whether you are a pink lover or not, there is something for everyone. Take baby steps and try on

a sweet pink blouse. There are hundreds of shades to choose from, and one is truly spoiled for choice. Crop tops and sleeveless blouses are Barbie's favourites and look smashing. However, if that's not your cup of tea, don't fret. Go for something a bit more modest but remain in the colour family. Pink pants aren't relegated to Barbie only; you can rock them too! Pair them with a white, black, or beige top to bring the pinkness down a notch, but still keep it Barbie-like. Gingham dresses and skirt sets are all the rage, as they are forever associated with Barbie's sweet style. A pale pink tweed skirt will look beautiful with a white top. Margot Robbie wore many versions of this set in the movie, including a navy blue one with white borders. It looked fabulous and is perfect for those not wanting to go too pink.

Accessories are a fun, easy way to incorporate Barbiecore in your look. A pink hairband is great; the options are endless, starting from plain satin ones to glittery Lucite ones. Pink necklaces, earrings and bracelets will add a fun pop of colour to your look. Handbags are having a fabulously pink moment and you can totally go for one. Keep a pink bag in your collection, you will be surprised how many times you will reach for it! Pink shoes will also look cute and sweet and make sure you are channelling your inner Barbie and strutting your stuff the Barbie way!

By Sabrina N. Bhuiyan
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Efa Tabassum
Styling: Soniya Yeasmin Isha
MUA: Sumon
Set Design: Eskay by Saimul Karim

Barbie, the figurehead for Mattel toys, has enjoyed an almost monopolistic popularity ever since its creation in the late 50s. Embroiled in quite a few feminist discussions, the famous doll was criticised for its perfect body, Caucasian features, and unrealistic good looks. However, times have changed and with it, Barbie.

#PERSPECTIVE

Shaping the Barbie we know *and* LOVE TODAY

Called the Barbie Teen-age Fashion Model, the first ever Barbie doll appeared at the American Toy Fair in New York, in 1959. She wore a black and white bathing suit, matching heels, had the iconic made-up face and a chic ponytail.

With over a billion dolls sold throughout its life (and counting), Barbie continues to enjoy unchecked popularity among children around

the world. However, despite its gorgeous looks, or rather because of it, Barbie has always been under the critical glare of the feminist eye. No other toy, in fact, has probably borne as much backlash because it was so perfect. As girls around the globe fell under the spell of Barbie, critiques could not help but worry about the future implications of such frenzied admiration.

She was everything they wanted to be — she had the coveted hourglass figure, the long-lashed blue eyes, the pink cheeks and perfect, wavy hair. Little girls idolised her, older ones aspired to look like her. And that was where the problem lay.

In spite of the fact that Barbie was portrayed to be an ambitious girl, and was outfitted in a



number of different attires ranging from cute, girl-next-door dresses to alluring beachwear, formal wear and even pinstriped pantsuits, to portray her various professions, her physical appearance continued to be unwaveringly and unrealistically perfect. Barbie was the quintessential fashion diva — but not necessarily a diverse one. Girls with dark skin were beginning to feel less than, as were those girls who did not have similarly enviable body shapes.

Addressing Colourism

It was not really until the 80s that the creators of Barbie realised the error of their ways and came out with the original African American Barbie doll and her love interest Ken. The doll couple had rich, warm complexions and textured hair, native to the region. The darker-complexioned Barbie lovers breathed a sigh of relief and the move ignited hopes of inclusivity among people of other races. Mattel did not disappoint and soon came out with a range of dolls to cater to the toy markets of the Hispanics and even the Asians.

These were significant steps in the right decision and Barbie was slowly but surely carving out a space for itself as a toy that did not discriminate against race or skin colour. Despite numerous efforts, Barbie's waistline continued to be eerily thin, which posed a problem for those

advocating for body positivity.

Body Positive Barbies

The Barbie creators finally, after about 50 years into its life, addressed this issue in 2010, by introducing the "Fashionista Barbie" — a line of 23 dolls in various skin tones, hair types and textures. The line featured dolls who were curvy, petite, tall, or muscular, and sported afros, curls and braids. Between then and now, Mattel has shown support for cancer, Alopecia and Trichotillomania patients through a bald Barbie, hearing impaired persons through the American Sign Language Barbie, and even those people who had issues like greying hair and vitiligo. Nine years later, the line introduced a specially-abled doll in a wheelchair, expanding its inclusivity package to people with special needs. As recently as 2023, Mattel has brought out a doll to represent someone with Down Syndrome. This move was met with laudation and praise for the founding organisation, being the first toy company to include neurodivergent individuals and counter social stigma through role play and storytelling.

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Efa Tabassum
Styling: Soniya Yeasmin Isha
MUA: Sumon
Set Design: Eskay by Saimul Karim





#CHECK IT OUT

The movie and Barbie in the future

As the new Barbie movie makes waves across theatres around the world, the message is simple. This is not the Barbie of yesteryears where she had to look a certain way, fit a certain beauty standard and act a certain character. The world has evolved and Barbie has certainly kept up. Like any modern woman, the Barbie of today can be anything and everything she wants to be. She is a President, a Nobel laureate, a Supreme Court Justice, a lawyer, and so much more. She comes in varying skin tones, a variety of body types and with a range of different abilities.

The movie is nothing if not a multi-faceted ode to inclusivity and body positivity in a strongly marketed, go-getter avatar. It teaches girls to dream and dream big. It tells them that they shouldn't just aspire to look like the popular doll, but to step out of their comfort zones and soar to their potential. Barbie sprinkles a pink pinch of hope in an otherwise despairingly monochromatic world. She is back to rock the world – except, oddly, the world no longer feels plastic, just fantastic!

By Munira Fidai
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Efa Tabassum
Styling: Soniya Yeasmin Isha
MUA: Sumon
Set Design: Eskay by Saimul Karim

#FOOD & RECIPES

Recipes to sweeten your Barbie fever

Can't get enough of the pink-themed Barbie fever? You are not alone. So, why not complete the hype-coaster with sweet dishes that would look perfect in a Barbie world, and with these recipes, you'll be one step closer to it.

STICKY MOCHA CINNAMON CARAMEL BUNS

Ingredients

For the dough –

- 1 cup warm milk
- 2 tsp yeast
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 small stick of butter (90g)
- 1 whole egg + 2 egg yolks
- Salt to taste (more salt if you are using unsalted butter)
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 4 cups of flour

For the caramel topping —

- ½ cups brown sugar
- ¾ cup butter
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp coffee (instant coffee)
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Method

Warm the milk until it is lukewarm, mix in half quantity of sugar and yeast, and let it rest to activate the yeast factor. Melt butter in separate bowl, whisk in the eggs, vanilla, salt, and remaining sugar.

Now add the butter-egg mix together with the milk mixture, and mix in well. Slowly add in half the flour, mix with an electric mixer. Add in remaining flour, mix in slower speed (use the ladle for dough). Once incorporated well, get the dough at your station and knead with your hands properly, till it comes together like a pillow. Keep kneading till the dough pushes back when poked slightly. Keep it in an oiled bowl and cover with wet towel.

Now, to make the filling, use cold butter. Mix in all the ingredients for the filling, and make a mush (should not melt, but hold itself). Now, roll the dough flat, and spread the filling in the dough. Then fold the filled dough in two straight halves, then cut in long straps so that the filling falls longitudinal. Each long strap makes one bun. On each strap, slice three separate straps (think of it as though you are making braids, watch a YouTube tutorial for reference). Then roll in circle, and place it on a buttered pan for baking. Let it rest in that condition for 20 minutes. Pre-heat oven in 375° F and bake for 15-18 minutes, till lightly brown!

TIRAMISU

Ingredients

For the coffee mix —

- 2 tbsp instant coffee
- 2 cups water

For the filling —

- 3 tbsp mascarpone cheese
- 5 egg yolks

- 2/3 cups of sugar
- 2 cups heavy whipping cream
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 packet lady fingers
- Cocoa powder

Method

Combine the instant coffee and water, and let it set aside. For the filling, first beat the mascarpone on your electric mixer. Add the vanilla to it. On a double boiler (basically setting a bowl over a utensil with hot water on stove, so that what is in the bowl is not in direct contact with heat, the water should not touch the bowl), get your egg yolks and sugar, and whisk them together. Keep whisking till the sugar has melt and the mix changes colour to a lighter shade of yellow. Bring it to room temperature, or you can keep it in refrigerator so that it cools.

Add the whipped cream on separate bowl, and whisk it for whipped cream. Then mix in all the elements — the egg mix, the mascarpone, but mix at a very slow speed. Now, to assemble, first dip the lady fingers in the espresso mix, then set it in the desired flat dish that you wish to serve it on. Make a layer of dipped lady fingers, then a layer of the cream mix, and keep repeating the steps till desired thickness is achieved. End with the layer of cream on top, and dust it with cocoa powder.

Let it sit in the fridge for at least 6 hours. Serve and enjoy cold!

COCONUT FREEZE

Ingredients

- 2 cups coconut milk
- 2 cups whole milk
- ½ cup young coconut/soft coconut flesh (regular coconut flesh can be used too)
- 3 tbsp condensed milk

Method

Freeze the coconut flesh, so that they are churned when blended. Refrigerate all the ingredients, so that they are cold when serving. Blend all the ingredients together and voila, its ready to be served!

Recipe by Shababa Suzana

Photo: Shababa Suzana (Fatduck)





UNVEILING YOUR DREAM HOME

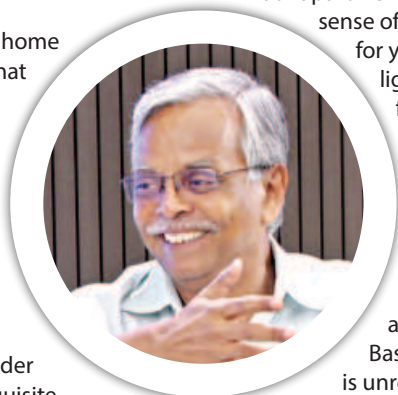
Factors to Consider Before Buying an Apartment

Finding an ideal home that resonates with your true self is the most intimate of experiences. A house is more than simply a structure made of bricks and mortar. It is a blank canvas on which you can paint your personality and let your dreams take flight. A reflection of all your favourite things, a touch of nature, and a sanctuary you cannot wait to get back to at the end of the day; that is home.

Imagine entering your home and finding little details that reflect your individuality with every step. Your house is a reflection of who you are; it's where the hues, decor, and furnishings themselves represent who you are. While personal choices may vary, there are a few key factors we must consider before embracing the exquisite journey of owning an apartment.

Embracing Nature's Rhythms

"Our climate is a tropical one, where it gets very humid, but we also have a lot of rain. So, greenery is needed for a lively environment and to soothe our ways. I would always recommend living in an environment where enough air flows and is full of light," said Nahas Ahmed Khalil, a prominent Bangladeshi architect.



His words of wisdom are profoundly felt in Bangladesh's lush green environment. When looking for an apartment, consider a setting that allows you to enjoy the benefits of nature. Your living space can be given a colourful touch of greenery, which will calm your senses and create a living refuge.

Abundance of Air and Light

Your apartment ought to provide you a sense of vibrancy, just like you do for your dreams. Your home's lighting and airflow are key factors in establishing a comfortable and relaxing atmosphere.

Edison Desdemona, a luxurious housing development by Edison Real Estate Ltd, is tucked away in the centre of Bashundhara R/A where air is unrestricted and the sunlight dances through every crevice of your house, enveloping it in a loving hug. A large tree working as a centre piece on the ground floor, a spacious play zone and touch of greens surrounding it effortlessly blends nature with architectural finesse, ensuring that natural light gently filters through, lighting every nook with warmth. The air flows smoothly through cross-ventilation that has been carefully planned to keep your home fresh and lively.



Family Space - Where Bonds Blossom

Family areas flourish at the centre of a house with love, respect and fun. With plenty of daylight and fresh air, the comfortable living area turns into a hub for stories and laughter. "I love it when living rooms are spacious, as I can sit with my family there for a relaxing time, or can play with my children. It's very important for any modern apartments to have living rooms where we can spend quality time with our families," said Peya Jannatul, a prominent model and lawyer of Bangladesh.

The pleasant dining area provides the backdrop for memorable meals and exciting culinary experiences. The large balcony is ideal for having chats while gazing at the stars, and the bedrooms are amazing too.

According to experts, you must keep in mind that the size and layout of an apartment is ideal for your family to ensure not only a house for everyone but also a home they want to come back to.

Interior Design - Where Beauty Meets Function

Interior design acts as the paintbrush that paints your dreams into reality as the tapestry of your house takes shape. With each stroke of creativity, colours dance in harmony, and the space transforms into a reflection of your unique personality and style.

Edison Cordelia, yet another stellar project by Edison Real Estate Ltd, seamlessly blends these contemporary conveniences and skilfully combines elegance and functionality.

The water garden allows you to immerse yourself in peace and is reachable by a stepped garden path. For the little ones, a designated playground area transforms into their enchanted world of happiness and laughter. The well-equipped gym is a haven for fitness aficionados, and the clubhouse is a welcoming place to unwind and socialize with neighbours.

As you begin the journey towards buying an apartment, give some thought to choosing a residence that reflects your character and takes your way of life to a higher level of refinement and elegance. Unveil your own special tale, one in which the peace and harmony of nature and modern living coexist harmoniously, and build a refuge where dreams can unfold in tune with the pulse of life.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel

Women on Wheel empowering women in Bangladesh's automotive scene

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

The motivation to start this community of strong independent women drivers started off from a scenario that should be familiar with many women here. The need to feel safe on the road. Whether it's themselves driving or taking other forms of transport, women usually aren't as comfortable as you'd think! Every day is an uphill battle of sorts just to go from point A to B and it can take a toll on women.

Kazi Farhana, founder of WoW Bangladesh, recalled her time during COVID where she had to drive herself to her workplace as every mode of transport was unavailable at the time. "My fear of losing my job made me overcome my previous fear of driving," said Farhana. As she felt more confident driving regularly, the road ahead had many hurdles, such as a lack of technical expertise, social unacceptability, sledging

on the side of the road, and unwanted disapproval of bystanders.

"Transportation is a nightmare for women in our country, and public transportation is not always safe for them. For women who have the means, driving their own vehicle is a safe and reliable mode of transportation. Women on Wheel is a support system for female drivers or potential women drivers. The philosophy behind our group is that strong women lift and encourage strong women," expressed Farhana.

This is what inspired her to open a community as these are everyday situations a woman driver has to go through. She sought out other women online and

together with her friends, she founded WoW. The intention was to create an inclusive community of women who helped

each other regarding these issues and come to a solution. "The philosophy behind our group was that strong women lift and encourage strong women," stated Farhana.

Women on Wheel assists female drivers. Whether it be technical queries, suggestions for buying cars and insurances, emergency support for drivers and driver meetups to discuss more opportunities for these ladies to encapsulate on. They have a myriad of services offered to women including driving lessons, training women to be adept in mechanics, trainers, and service executives. They even provide



expert assistance for emergency support on the road via a helpline and have full-fledged workshops and garages led and staffed by women for the usual repair works.

Their goals for the future are ambitious to say the least, as they want to increase the awareness among society by taking affirmative action. They are progressing one step at a time and want to train women so that they can be hired in respectable positions such as in BRTA or where women could become drivers themselves or trainee officers too. Their long-term goal is to set up an institution where they can offer proper courses with proper degrees and diplomas to women seeking to enter the automotive field and to establish policies that benefit women in the automobile industry.

By Abdul Warith Khan.
Photo: WoW Bangladesh

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Be discreet with your personal information. Reach out if you want help. Concentrate on moneymaking ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Find ways to relieve tension. Take time to reflect on your position. Controlling your emotions will be difficult this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

You might not get things your way. Put effort into making valuable connections. Avoid spending more than you can afford. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



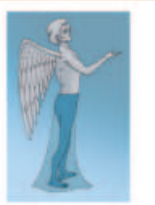
CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Problems in your relationship will cause minor ailments. Get involved in environmental issues. Get out and mingle. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Travel will be entertaining. Put in overtime if you have to. Try to be understanding. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Consider adding physical exercises to your schedule. Make your partner feel wanted. Investing in your residence will be a good move. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Friends may not understand your situation. Dream a little this week. Reconsider your life goals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Your high energy will let you to complete any difficult task. Don't press your luck with loved ones. Travel will be refreshing. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

You might be in low spirits. New job opportunities may present themselves. Be discreet about your personal life. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Make any necessary changes this week. You can make money with some ingenuity. Don't be overly generous. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Don't overspend on others. Be careful if a friend asks for advice. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Don't miss out on the big picture. Your actions at work will be appreciated. Your original ideas can make some extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

us on f /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য ঘাটেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL



#CHECK IT OUT

THE SPLENDOUR OF SYLHET

Nestled in the picturesque Surma Valley amidst scenic tea plantations and lush green tropical forests, Sylhet is blessed with several picturesque places of interests. With easy connectivity by rail, road, and air from Dhaka, it has been a prime tourist destination.

Located on the bank of the Surma River, Sylhet is one of the oldest cities in Bangladesh, having a vast historical and cultural background. Originally part of the Bengal Presidency and later Eastern Bengal and Assam; Sylhet was part of Colonial Assam between 1874 and 1947 when, following a referendum and the partition of British India, it then became part of the then East Pakistan.



Sylhet plays a vital role in the economy of Bangladesh and is home to some of the largest natural gas fields and tea plantations. The geography of Sylhet consists mainly of hills, and a few large natural water bodies known locally as "haors." During winter, these haors are vast stretches of green land, but in the rainy season, they turn into turbulent seas. These haors provide a sanctuary to the millions of migratory birds who fly from Siberia across the Himalayas to avoid the severe cold there. One such Haor, the Hakaluki Haor is a popular tourist destination, covering Barlekha Upazila of Moulvibazar District and Fenchuganj and Golapganj Upazila of Sylhet District.

As we left the airport, we were overcome by the scenic landscape of the Malnicherra

Tea Estate. Established by Lord Hurdson, with commercial cultivation of tea beginning in the Malnicherra Estate in 1849, this is considered as one of the oldest and largest tea gardens in the subcontinent.

During our visit, we decided to take a city tour. The city is described as the "City of Saints," with the Holy shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal (R) and Hazrat Shah Paran (R) located at heart of the city. We first visited both the *Dargah* and offered prayers.

We then stopped at Jitu Miar Bari, an architectural garden palace in the heart of the city. The elegant white painted mansion amidst manicured garden speaks of the glorious past.

Our next destination was the Keane Bridge located over the Surma River, one of the most recognisable landmarks of Sylhet.

Built in 1936, the iron bridge is named after Sir Michael Keane, who was the English Governor of Assam from 1932 to 1937. The century-old bridge, unable to bear any significant weight, is now relegated to pedestrians and rickshaws. During the Liberation War, the bridge was blown off with dynamite by the Pakistan Army and severely damaged.

Nearby is the Ali Amjad Clock, the oldest clock tower of Bangladesh, located on the bank of the Surma River. It is locally known as "Ghori Ghar." The tower was constructed in 1872 by Ali Amjad's father, Nawab Moulvi Ali Ahmed Khan, just two years before he was born.

We set off in the morning for an hour-long drive from Sylhet to reach Sreemangal, "The land of two leaves and a bud." Famous for some of the largest tea gardens, covered by lush green carpet, Sreemangal has been nicknamed the "tea capital of Bangladesh," due to the number of tea gardens in the

area, and is the place of origin of the Seven Colour Tea. Bangladesh produces and exports large quantity of high-quality tea every year. On the way, we witnessed the mesmerising terraced tea gardens, pineapple, rubber and lemon plantations. On entering the tea estates, we were blown away by the rich aroma of the tea leaves and saw women in colourful attire plucking leaves. We later settled for a sumptuous lunch at a local restaurant much to our gastronomic delight.

We also visited Tamabil and Jaflong, popular tourist destinations on the Sylhet-Shillong Road, an hour's drive from Sylhet. Situated amidst splendid panorama, Tamabil is a border outpost. On the way, several waterfalls across the border provided enchanting views. With the forested mountainous backdrop and streams of clear waters flowing with thousands of rolling stones littered from nearby mountains, Jaflong offered a perfect postcard view amidst tea gardens.

Our next destination was the Ratargul, a freshwater swamp forest located in the Gowain River, about 30 kilometres from Sylhet. It is dubbed as the Second Sundarban. On reaching the bank of the river, we availed a 20-minute boat ride that would bring us to Ratargul. A small walk up the hill and we were then astounded by the captivating beauty of the surroundings. We took an hour-long boat cruise through the lake. Many of the trees appeared like grottos in the middle of the water bodies, thus providing a magnificent view. Calm, tranquil, enveloped in green foliage, with the chirping of local birds, the entire ambience was simply mind-blowing.

By Dr Shamim Ahmed
Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

