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beautiful BANGLADESH

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PHOTO: MOHIUDDIN AHMED SAGOR



Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden proudly announce promotions of two directors

Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden, one of the leading five-star properties in the country, proudly announces the promotion of Kazi Sazedul Hai as the Director of Food and Beverage department.

Kazi Sazedul Hai is responsible for managing all aspects of food and beverage hereon, ensuring the food philosophy of Radisson Blu Dhaka is

reflected through the restaurants and banquets. He has expertise in nurturing a business environment, analysing and suggesting trends within the hospitality industry that will consistently deliver positive results whilst improving guest satisfaction and profitability.

Being a veteran of more than 35 years of Food and Beverage experience in the hospitality industry, Kazi Sazedul Hai

also has 15 years of experience from abroad with different hotel management chains such as Swiss Gustard Hotel under Swiss Management, Rosewood Hotel Management, and Movenpick Hotels. Currently, he is working with Radisson Hotel Group.

Another wonderful news comes with the promotion of Mohammed Iqbal Hossain as the Director of Catering Sales.

Iqbal Hossain is truly passionate about introducing new ideas to uphold the MICE market of Bangladesh and also excel in maximizing revenue, revenue analysis, negotiation, cost optimisation and pricing strategy development. He has started his remarkable journey in 2005 and is still continuing his contribution to uphold hospitality industry as Catering Sales Director.

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ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য ঘাটেই

স্যান্ডালিনা
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রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL



#SOCIAL ISSUES

Protigga Foundation's vision for a BETTER BANGLADESH

Protigga Foundation started its official journey in 2018, three years after the idea was first conceived. Their aim was simple — to help distressed people in disadvantaged positions and living in substandard conditions.

Their main focus is to work on women's menstrual health issues, family planning matters, providing women with different fundamental life skills, and imparting gender education. They also work with volunteers from different schools around the city to spread valuable message around.



Protigga Foundation envisions a world where poverty is entirely rid of. A world where people have the freedom to choose and influence their decisions directly without any worry. They want everyone to enjoy life, exercise their rights, and assume their responsibilities — a world where they are dignified equally. The Foundation plans to do this by uplifting disadvantaged people and empowering them, especially women and children, helping them develop their skills and strengthening their rights.

Razia Rahman, the founder and chairperson, has unbridled passion that drove her to start Protigga Foundation to help impoverished and underprivileged people in Bangladesh. She has previously worked as an independent consultant with organisations like UNICEF, UNFPA, CWFD,

and the Department of Women Affairs, Bangladesh.

"I found my passion and purpose in life by helping those less privileged than myself. Disadvantaged women and children in Bangladesh need support from a legal entity so I try to help them overcome problems they face daily," expressed Rahman.

Protigga Foundation has made many breakthroughs in the previous years with their focus mainly on arranging workshops, doing volunteering projects with women and children, and distribution of basic needs. Their workshops focus on different issues such as women's health, including menstrual hygiene management and family planning, raising awareness and ending child marriages in Bangladesh, teaching children essential life skills and working on gender diversity.

Their volunteering projects include

campaigns against child abuse and parental awareness programmes. They even conducted projects to teach parents and their children about life and growing up in the digital age, educating both parties about the advancements and the pros and cons of technology.

Pursuing future prospects, Protigga Foundation and Razia Rahman have many aspirations, including broadening their horizon to all 64 districts of Bangladesh where they can work on women's health issues, especially with women cleaners, advising them on menstrual health, family planning and even mental health counselling. They plan to set up satellite clinics in rural areas to give more people access to better healthcare and counselling sessions.

By Abdul Warith Khan
Photo: Protigga Foundation

Comfortable cotton saris for summer

This has been the quintessential wardrobe staple for Bengali women across generations. Enriching our fashion repertoire, cotton saris have been passed down for generations from our grandmothers and mothers to us, and rightfully so. They have been favoured by our elders and by us because of their comfort and resonance with the Bengali aesthetic.

Cotton is the number one choice of fabric for summer. Being a natural fibre, it allows free airflow; the soft fabric wicks away moisture, helping the wearer cool down in sweltering heat. So, it is no surprise that ladies tend to opt for cotton saris in vibrant colours during the summer.

The threads of cotton saris do not simply weave together to create a garment, it is an artistic depiction of the stories of weavers and designers. Cotton saris, especially taant or handloom saris, have seamlessly woven themselves into the rich tapestry of our culture.

These are not mere saris; they are connections to one's roots and heritage. These saris often come with tales of family milestones, festivals, and special events, creating a strong emotional bond between generations.

Cotton saris are the epitome of comfort and timeless elegance. These



saris gracefully drape around the body, enhancing a woman's natural beauty and charm. Their ability to transcend time and seamlessly blend with modern trends speaks volumes about their enduring appeal.

The simplicity of cotton saris has an undeniable allure, making them suitable for various occasions, be it daily wear, casual outings, or formal events. Red and white coloured cotton saris are a must for Pahela Baishakh, while light green, lemon green,



lemon yellow and other shades of green and yellow work harmoniously to adorn you for the Falgun festivities in Spring.

From endi cotton saris to handloom saris, the options are endless. These come with hand stitching, kantha stitching, block print, tie dye, batik and so many more iterations. Plain single-coloured saris and colour-blocked saris seem to be the more popular choice among young students these days.

With a plethora of ways to style cotton saris, let this garment be your canvas to

display your creativity and passion for fashion in its full capacity. While most Bangladeshi women tend to go for half-sleeved plain blouses with cotton saris, do not restrict your blouses to this one classic design.

Blouses with no sleeves, three-quarter sleeves, or full sleeves pair well with cotton saris. Halter neck style and high neck blouses will cement you as a fashion-forward individual. The boat neckline will give off major Madhulika Kapilavayi vibes. Create contrast in your drapery by opting for printed blouses for rather simpler saris.

Our traditional jewellery serves as the perfect counterpart for cotton saris. Antique style gold and silver jewellery, particularly the oxidised variation will complement the complexion wonderfully and make the whole look radiant. Jewellery made of fabric, clay, terracotta, wood and other quirky materials will make you that much more artistic and allude to the fact that you have an elegant taste.

Whether it's for casual wear, formal events, or family celebrations, the cotton sari continues to be a symbol of grace and tradition, connecting women to their roots while embracing the future with open arms.

By Maliha Arosha Hasan

Photo: LS Archive/Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Elevating Fabric Care to New Heights: Introducing the Revolutionary LG Dual Inverter Heat Pump Dryer & Objet Series Wash Tower™ in Bangladesh

Bangladesh embraces the future of laundry technology; LG Electronics is all set to revolutionize the way we dry our clothes with the launch of its cutting-edge appliance - the LG Dual Inverter Heat Pump Dryer & Objet Series Wash Tower. This revolutionary laundry technology by LG is available at all RANGS eMART showrooms.

Unrivaled Softness:

LG Cloth Dryer utilizes advanced technology to gently tumble and circulate warm air around the fabrics. The result? Incredibly soft and comfortable clothes that offer a truly indulgent wearing experience. Say goodbye to rough jeans and scratchy towels, and welcome the luxury of garments that feel as soft as they look.

Preserving Vibrant Colors:

The LG Cloth Dryer incorporates Color Protection Technology, which employs precise temperature and moisture control to safeguard the integrity of fabrics. By preventing excessive heat exposure, fading, and color bleeding, this innovative feature ensures that your clothes retain their original brilliance and vibrancy, allowing you to enjoy your favorite outfits for much longer without worrying about color degradation.

Caring for Fabrics, Extending Lifespan:



With a gentle drying process, precise temperature control, and airflow management, this dryer minimizes fabric stretching, shrinkage, and distortion. Delicate items like silk or wool receive the utmost care, preserving their texture and shape. Experience the confidence that comes with knowing your clothes will look and feel as good as new, even after numerous drying cycles.

Certified Allergy Defense and Hygiene Assurance:

The LG Cloth Dryer goes beyond fabric care by prioritizing allergy defense and hygiene. Its advanced Allergy Care System eliminates harmful allergens and bacteria that may be present in your clothes. Through high-temperature sterilization system ensures that your garments are free

from allergens, dust mites, and potential triggers. With certification from the British Allergy Foundation (BAF), you can rest assured that your clothes are safe from all kinds of allergens that can cause respiratory and skin diseases, creating a hygienic and allergy-free environment for you and your family.

Auto Cleaning Condenser for Efficiency and Hassle-free Experience:

The LG Dual Inverter Heat Pump Dryer features an Auto Cleaning Condenser, offering a range of benefits that improve efficiency by maintaining optimal airflow, enhance drying performance for faster and more effective results, reduce energy consumption, and provide convenience by eliminating the need for manual cleaning. With this feature, users can enjoy a hassle-free and efficient drying experience while saving time and energy.

But that's not all! Alongside the LG Dual Inverter Heat Pump Dryer, LG Electronics is also launching the LG Objet Series WashTower™ - an innovative all-in-one solution that combines a washer and dryer in a single unit, powered by AI DD™ technology for personalized fabric care. With One Body Center Control and a blend of elegance and sophistication, this LG Objet Series WashTower™ greatly enhances the aesthetic appeal of any home.

#TRAVEL

Top 5 places to visit in GAZIPUR

A district in the Dhaka division, Gazipur boasts industrial development amidst natural beauty. It's a popular destination for travellers who want to experience the greenery, be it in a safari park or a resort. So, whether you want to take a day trip or go on a tour for a couple of days, here are the top five places to visit in Gazipur.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Safari Park

Located at Safari Park Road, Gazipur, this safari park boasts a large variety of wild animals in their natural habitat. As you ride a bus through the park, you will observe lions, tigers, zebras, deer and many more exotic animals. While you are at the bird park, you will find colourful birds from different parts of the world. In addition, the park also has a butterfly garden, a reptile house, a picnic spot and a children's playground. So, if you want a dash of adventure in Gazipur, this is the place to be.

Nuhash Polli

Built by Bangladesh's most prominent writer Humayun Ahmed, this farmhouse, located in Pirujali village some 25 km away from Gazipur City, is surrounded by tranquil greenery and, is the perfect place to be if you want to spend a day in an artistic atmosphere. You will see paintings and sculptures, along with



ponds, bridges and cottages that are reflections of the creativity that Humayun Ahmed possessed.

Bhawal National Park

One of the largest national parks in Bangladesh that is a 20 km drive away from Gazipur City, and covers an area of over 5000 hectares. Home to a wide variety of plants and animals including monkeys, foxes, wild boars, mongooses and birds, you will have a fun time roaming the whole park and seeing all the animals. It's also an ideal picnic spot for families and friends to have a good time.



Resorts throughout Gazipur

Gazipur is blessed with an array of resorts that provides a great opportunity for you to get out of the hustle and bustle of city life, and spend some quality time with your dear ones in a relaxed setting. Most

of the resorts have amenities like swimming pools, cottage and villa accommodations, and buffet meals, among other things. You can also take part in activities like canoeing, playing sports like badminton, tennis or you can just take the whole day off at a spa. Located in various places throughout Gazipur, these resorts are always a great option for a day or two's stay.

Bangladesh Open University campus

While at Gazipur, don't forget to visit the beautiful campus of Bangladesh Open University, a public university that offers academic programme through distance learning. The campus is located in Board Bazar, where you can witness the campus that is full of greenery, and most importantly, a diverse set of students who are eager to learn. So, spend a day here to witness all the university has to offer.

By Feda Al Hossain

Photo: Mohiuddin Ahmed Sagor



#TRAVEL

Reasons why you should travel *within* Bangladesh



Star **LIFE** Style

Travelling is fun. It comes with new experiences, thus broadening one's mind and knowledge. Over the recent years, the people of Bangladesh are showing a greater tendency towards tourism and travelling. Tourism within our country has bloomed for sure but not as much as one would expect. Lately, there has been a rise in the number of tourists travelling from Bangladesh to other countries, which is fine, but there are plenty of reasons to travel within our own country.

THERE'S PLENTY TO SEE

The Cox's Bazar Sea beach is the longest in the world and the Sundarbans is another magnificent site of natural beauty where one gets to see the rivers and swamps; a unique natural setting that is quite enthralling and admired all over the world. If you have already visited these spots, there's still plenty to explore within the country. Whether you prefer natural spectacles or historical points of interest, if one were to research a bit, there are interesting tourist spots in almost every district.

SUPPORT LOCAL ECONOMY

Another reason to visit within the country is that it supports the local economy. The shutki trade or the mango trade in Bangladesh are set in separate places. Travelling to these districts in full season can be an experience in itself. On top of that, if you decide to indulge yourself, then you can contribute to the local business. Besides, wherever you travel, the local hotels, restaurants and shops are there to serve you and by taking their service, you are also playing a role in the local economy.

CHANCE TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY

Travelling anywhere has the upside of increasing your knowledge and experience. Travelling within the country will allow you the opportunity to see the different cultures and heritages scattered all across the country. The differences in the community and society, the different food habits and norms and the accents; all of these can be an opportunity to learn more about your own country.



FINANCIALLY CONVENIENT

Travelling across the border is never cheap. There are transportation expenses, documentation expenses, and food and lodging costs. Travelling in a foreign country is never kind to the wallet. On the other hand, one can easily travel to most places within the country on a budget. This can be an important factor when you are planning a trip.

EASIER FOR GROUPS

Happiness increases when it is shared. Fond memories of tours can be memorable if you travel with your friends and family. Travelling abroad with larger groups can be difficult. There can be a lot of issues and finances can be tricky. Group plans within the country are executable without much trouble. Consider travelling within the country the next time you are making plans for a group trip.

OUT OF THE BLUE? NO PROBLEM

Unless you are planning to travel on the eve of Eid, it should not be an issue to get a ticket to anywhere within the country. Regardless of how sudden your plans are, if you are determined to go somewhere, it's very much possible. Do you have two days off from work and want to take a quick trip to Khulna for a taste of mutton-chuijhal? It's easily doable. The same cannot be said for travelling out of the country, which comes at the cost of long hours spent in planning and making arrangements.

EASIER TO PACK

Packing for a tour can be a challenge especially if you are travelling to another country. What to carry and what to leave? It's a question that plagues most. But travelling within the country, you can rely on lighter baggage and for a traveller, that is a blessing.

Of course, one should travel abroad when the chance presents itself because it means new experiences, but travelling locally should also be considered on a serious note. It supports our local tourism and it offers new perspectives about your own country. So, the next time you are planning a trip, consider Bangladesh before you consider another country.

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro
Photo: Mohiuddin Ahmed Sagor





DESHI MEAL CALLING

Easy and tasty *deshi* recipes

Many find it difficult to prepare food *deshi* style. The following are three simple recipes that make 'complex' procedures simple for everyone. Great for weekends!

WHITE CHICKEN KORMA

Ingredients

For onion paste —

3 tbsp oil
1 cup sliced onions
4-5 garlic cloves
4-5 ginger pods
2-3 green chillies

For almond-cashew nut paste —

1 cup almonds (soaked and peeled)
½ cup cashew nuts
Water, as required

For chicken marination —

1 kg chicken
½ cup yoghurt
2 tbsp

lemon juice

1 tsp salt

For white korma —

½ cup oil
1 tbsp cumin seeds
4-5 green cardamoms
1 tsp black peppercorns
6-7 cloves
1 tsp salt
1 tsp white pepper powder
1 tsp black pepper powder
½ cup almond-cashew nut paste
Green chillies (sliced), for garnishing
Ginger (julienne), for garnishing

Method

Onion paste preparation

In a pan heat oil and add onion, garlic ginger and cook until onion gets soft. Transfer it to a blender and add green chillies. Blend until a

smooth paste has formed. The onion paste is ready. Set aside.

Almond-cashew nut preparation

In a blender add almonds, cashew nuts, and water and blend it well into a smooth paste. Almond-cashew nut paste is ready.

Chicken Marination

In a bowl add chicken, yoghurt, lemon juice, and salt. Mix it well. Marinate the chicken for 15-20 mins. Set aside.

White korma preparation

In a pot, heat oil and add cumin seeds. Sizzle for a few seconds. Add green cardamoms, black peppercorns, cloves and sizzle for another mins. Add onion paste and cook for 2-3 mins. Add chicken and cook until the chicken changes colour. Cover and cook for 10-15 mins. Now add salt, white pepper powder, and black pepper powder and cook for 4-5 mins. Add almond cashew nut paste and cook for 2-3 mins or until chicken is fully done. Dish it out and garnish with green chillies, ginger and serve.

FISH COCONUT CURRY

Ingredients

500g boneless fish fillets (Basa/Cod/Haddock)
3 tbsp tomato puree or paste
1 cup coconut milk (225 ml)
2 tsp white vinegar
3 tbsp refined oil
1 tsp salt

For onion masala paste —

2 cubed onions (medium; 150 grams)
1" piece ginger, chopped
6 garlic cloves
1 tsp cumin seeds

For the tempering —

½ tsp mustard seeds
10-15 curry leaves
2-3 green chillies, chopped

Spice powders —

½ tsp turmeric powder
2 tsp red chilli powder

Method

Make a paste of the cubed onions, peeled and chopped ginger, peeled garlic, and cumin seeds. set aside. Chop the green chillies; wash and take out the curry leaves. For the coconut milk, you can use readymade coconut milk or fresh coconut milk from fresh coconut at home.

For the fish, take boneless fish fillets and cut them into thick slices.

Heat oil in a pan and add the mustard seeds. Once it splutters, add the curry leaves and the chopped green chillies. Give a stir and then add the onion paste. Give a mix and continue to fry on medium heat for 7-8 mins until light brown.

Now, add the tomato puree. Give a mix and fry on low heat for 2 mins. Add the turmeric, red chilli powder, and salt. Give a mix and fry on medium heat for 2-3 mins after adding 3 tbsp water until oil separates. Add the coconut milk and 200 ml water, give a mix and cover and cook on low heat for 5 mins until oil separates. Add the boneless fish pieces and give a mix. Cover and cook on low heat for 10 mins. Add the white vinegar, shake the pan to give a mix. Shimmer on low heat for 2 mins.

Switch off the heat, cover the lid and let it rest for 15-30 mins before serving. Fish coconut curry is ready. Serve it with rice.

MANGO KULFI

Ingredients for custard-khoya mixture —

½ litre milk
½ cup condensed milk
½ tsp cardamom powder
Custard slurry (2 tbsp mango-flavoured custard powder; ½ cup milk)
100g khoya

Ingredients for mango kulfi —

¾ cup mango chunks
¼ cup pistachio
¼ cup almonds
½ cup custard-khoya mixture
1 cup whipping cream

Method

For custard-khoya mixture —

In a pot, heat milk. Add condensed milk, cardamom powder and cook until it starts boiling. Add custard slurry and mix it well. Cook for 4-5 minutes. Add khoya to it and cook until it melts. The khoya milk mixture is ready. Let it cool at room temperature.

For mango kulfi —

In a blender, add mango chunks and blend them well to make a puree. In a separate bowl add whipping cream and beat it until fluffy and stiff peaks form. Add prepared custard khoya mixture, mango puree, pistachio, and almonds and mix it well. Now in a mould sprinkle chopped almonds and pistachios. Pour the prepared kulfi mixture and cover it. Freeze it overnight. Now move it from the mould, cut the slices drizzle mango puree over it and serve. Mango kulfi is ready.

By Sheulee Akter

Photo: Collected



#SOCIAL ISSUES

HASHIMUKH SOMAJ KALLAYAN SONGSTHA

Changing lives through education

Back in 2014, a humble spark of compassion ignited the journey of Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha, a non-profit social welfare organisation with a noble mission to educate and uplift the underprivileged children of our society. Founded and presided over by the visionary, Nusrat Akter, this organisation has become a beacon of hope for countless young minds, illuminating their lives with the promise of a brighter future.

From its inception, the organisation has been steadfastly supported by a dedicated advisory board and executive committee, whose guidance and unwavering commitment have been instrumental in propelling Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha forward.

One of the focuses of Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha is to establish learning centres in marginalised communities. These centres act as safe havens where children can access quality education, mentorship, and guidance. The dedicated and passionate educators employed by the organisation are committed to nurturing the students' talents, instilling confidence, and nurturing their dreams.

Furthermore, the organisation firmly believes that education goes beyond the classroom. To this end, Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha organises various extracurricular activities and skill-building



workshops like basic computer training, and crafts training, that will help in the holistic development of these children. They are also introducing them to personal hygiene such as maintaining proper oral hygiene, and using sanitary napkins.

Beyond education, the organisation actively collaborates with other NGOs, governmental bodies, and corporate partners to address various social issues that affect the well-being of these children and their families. By working with different stakeholders, Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan

Songstha endeavours to create a network of support that uplifts the entire community.

"As we look to the future, Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha envisions expanding its reach to empower even more underprivileged children across the nation. And we are committed to this cause," shared Nusrat Akter.

The impact of Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha extends far beyond the borders of the communities it serves. The organisation's dedication to education and social welfare has caught the attention of

donors, philanthropists, and volunteers from all walks of life. Many individuals and establishments have rallied behind the cause, providing vital financial support, resources, and expertise.

The success stories of the children whose lives have been touched by Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha serve as a testament to their transformative power. A journey that started from a small room soon became a safe space for underprivileged kids.

The success didn't come overnight. Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha has faced various obstacles in its quest to empower the underprivileged. Funding remains the prime challenge, and the organisation continually seeks to build sustainable partnerships with donors and corporate entities who share their vision.

The dedication and resilience of Nusrat Akter and her team have kept the organisation afloat during challenging times. Their commitment to the cause, coupled with the unwavering support from the advisory board and executive committee, have enabled Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha to fight challenges and emerge stronger.

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal
Photo: Hashimukh Somaj Kallayan Songstha

DHAKA DIORAMA:

A group art exhibition

by MW Bangladesh

MW Bangladesh magazine, the Bangladeshi edition of the international magazine franchise MW, in association with City Bank American Express, organised a 4-day group art exhibition titled "Dhaka Diorama: Impressions of a Mega City."

The exhibition, which featured paintings and sculptures by 26 of the country's leading veterans and most exciting emerging artists, was held at Edge Gallery on Madani Avenue from 5 to 8 August. Rumana Chowdhury, Editor and Publisher of MW Bangladesh, was the curator of the event.

"Dhaka Diorama was an attempt to support and showcase the rich legacy of Bangladeshi art, to promote our local artists, from our established legends to the freshest faces on the scene. We aimed to bring on one platform, a diversity of talent. We also wanted to put the spotlight

on Dhaka, in all its quirks and qualities, to bring forth the kaleidoscopic glimpses of everyday life in the mega city, as well as its monuments that have stood the test of time."

Participating artists included Monirul Islam, Rafiqun Nabi, Hashem Khan, Abdus Sattar, Abdus Shakoor, Shahid Kabir, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Mohammed Eunus, Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Rokeya Sultana, Kuhu Plamondon, Ahmed Shamsuddoha, Sheikh Afzal, Kanak Chanpa Chakma, Mohammad Iqbal, Anisuzzaman Anis, Maksuda Iqbal Nipa, Md Tokon, Mejbaur Rahman Sumon, Shahanoor Mamoon, Suborna Morsheada, Hasura Akhter Rumky, Mukti Bhowmik, Anisuzzaman Faroque, and Shaymal Chandra Sarker.



#FASHION & BEAUTY

BeDeshi – putting Bengali fashion on the global map

Bengali fashion is a treasure trove of great outfit designs, styles, and fabrics that are unique and comfortable, and we Bengalis take pride in seeing our local garments being highlighted in the global arena, more so in the world of fashion.



Bringing Bengali fashion to the limelight, Tasmit Afiyat Arny, Founder and CEO of Stride, brought to reality her vision of sharing Bangladeshi culture through the lens of her fashion line on 21 July 2023, with support from the Qatar Foundation and the Embassy of Bangladesh.

The title of the show – BeDeshi – was a play on words in two languages, which is an indication towards being a foreigner and also a strong message to be authentic to one's roots.

"Although the Bangladesh garment industry is massive, it does not get as much attention in the global fashion scene as it should. Taking this into consideration, I decided to showcase Bengali fashion on a global platform," stated Arny.

All of the outfits were designed by Arny and from her own fashion house — Stride.

The purpose of the fashion show was to educate the broader global audience about Bangladeshi fashion and show a walking depiction of our culture. Not only that, but the weather in Qatar is similar to that of Bangladesh, so it was brought to their attention how our fabric is suitable and comfortable for everyday wear.

The one-of-a-kind fashion show had models walking the runway from diverse backgrounds including Qatari, Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian, and African nationalities, strutting Avant Garde outfits in front of American, British, and Bangladeshi diplomats, the Bangladeshi community, and individuals from the Qatari fashion industry.

The fashion show was a means to educate the audience about our local culture and fabric — and this was beautifully done. The materials used to make the outfits included jamdani, nakshi kantha, Rajshahi silk, gamchha, and taant. Printed garments told

wear on display. Some noteworthy outfits include a bridal skirt made from rikshaw plastic, a wedding gown made of jamdani, face-printed cardigans, gamchha two-piece and blazer, and silk gowns. There was an attire for every occasion, from casual daywear to shimmering evening gowns.

Apart from these, every model flashed a sunglasses that was hand-painted with bright patterns and murals we see in rikshaws. Each guest also received a Bangladeshi souvenir, which was a bookmark made from our local materials. The numerous textures and vibrant shades in the attires truly depicted the vivacity of our culture.

This fashion show was made possible with the support of Gulf Bangladesh Business Association, Abdul Matin Social Welfare Foundation, Green Red Studios Event, and Rosher Hari and was anchored by Maphuza Akter and Ayesha Hamid. BeDeshi was truly a magnificent portrayal of



the stories of history and featured historical figures such as prints of newspapers, Ahsan Manzil, and war martyrs.

The line-up had both bridal and casual

our local fashion scene on the global platform.

By Fariha Amber
Photo: Tahreem M Nazmur

#PERSPECTIVE

Consequences of climate change on gardening

It's been a rough year for gardeners — climate change is threatening a favourite pastime, a hobby, and a passion for millions.

Early spring, sudden drops in night-time temperature, and lack of rain have made it challenging for me to grow much this spring and summer. My cucumber vine succumbed to a slow and premature death and the spinach simply refused to live. Lettuces were not growing as they should, the eggplant is still a dwarf, and the Malabar spinach did not grow past several inches. Perennials like hydrangea and white 'Stargazer' lilies did not bear flowers, not even one! Not to mention the squirrels, who forage in the backyard and add to the agony of my plants! In the face of climate change, the only plants that are doing fairly well are the heirloom and cherry tomatoes.

People who grow crops and those who garden are often the first ones to sense any climate changes. These people



also watch these changes first-hand because they spend a considerable amount of their time in and with nature.

I am a hobby gardener and if you have ever owned plants, then you must know how much it hurts when your plants

droop, their leaves wither, and their buds and blossoms drop to the ground before turning into showy flowers or nutritious edibles. However, the truth is that if the weather does not permit, our time and effort are of no use.

Climate crisis is real and everyone is feeling it in some way or another.

On the morning of 7 June this year, when

I looked out the window, it looked like an overcast day, although the weather app said otherwise. I had not realised what was happening until I left home to pick up my daughter from her school. I checked the day's AQI (air quality index) on the phone and it read "unhealthy." Exposure to the outside air left my throat scratchy by then. I soon found out that it was not an overcast day but a shroud of smoke hanging in the air. The smoke was coming to America's East Coast from Canada, where the boreal forests were burning, and are still burning at the time of writing. New York City recorded the worst air quality in the world that day.

Here in Delaware, by the following morning, the air quality reached a hazardous level of 423 as opposed to an AQI value of 50 or below, which represents good air quality. We could not open our windows for three days in a row.





The consequences of climate change are now being felt in every corner of the world; no part of the globe is immune from it.

Hotter summers, colder winters, droughts or heavy rains are affecting the global population. In this new but scary normal, a hobby gardener like me is struggling to pursue her favourite summer activity which is gardening. On some days, I feel like giving up on gardening because in the face of adverse weather conditions, no matter how much I water and fertilise my plants, they do not grow and flourish.

While I mourn the untimely death of

my cucumber vine and lament over the poor health of my lettuces and eggplant, I think of farmers around the world and

what grief they must feel when their fields yield lower-than-expected crops. Think of the massive financial losses these farmers also incur as a result of the climate crisis, not to mention the huge loss of food for the world population. Even a hobby gardener like me lost most of the money I spent on seeds, plants, soil, and fertiliser this year. There are other costs, too. For instance, gardening water bill and a gardener's time and energy.



Climate change is real. It does not matter where you reside on this planet; it will come for you sooner or later. I read about climate change all the time but this spring and summer, I have experienced the effects of climate change in ways I have never experienced before. While we cannot repair the damages we have already done overnight, nations and individuals should give climate change mitigation their highest priority. We must remember that global warming affects everyone's food and water security in small and big ways.

I am looking forward to next spring and summer with the hope that it will not be as 'unfruitful' as this summer, although in my heart, I remain sceptical.

By Wara Karim

Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Keep your feelings to yourself. Finish off any old projects. Travel will be in your best interest. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Health problems can arise if you aren't careful. Colleagues may cause problems for you. Help a loved one with a personal problem. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Make financial gains through your unique approach. Social activity should be on your agenda. You may need help with your financial situation. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



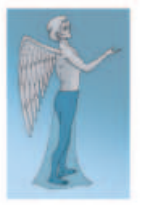
CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Secret affairs can lead to devastating circumstances. Channel your energy into home-improvement projects. Relatives might want to get together. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Your moods will see drastic changes. Restrictions will set you back. Health problems can arise this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



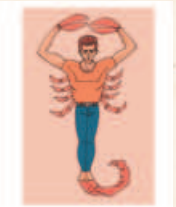
VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Make plans to travel. Partnerships could face problems. Don't let co-workers interfere with your objectives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



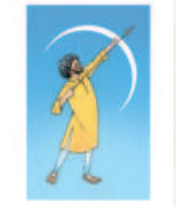
LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

You might be distracted with work. Don't discuss personal matters with anyone. Be wary of those with overly strong convictions. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Acknowledge your partner's needs. Your problem-solving ability will help at work. Don't upset elders in your family. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Restrictions may be difficult to deal with. Social events will let you meet new potential partners. Don't get confrontational with your employer. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



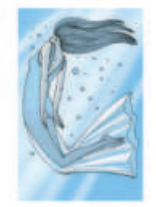
CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Avoid spending excessively on luxuries. Help children with important projects. Accidents can happen if you aren't careful. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Travel could result in new romantic attractions. Spend time with children this week. Old friends may not like your choices. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Colleagues may not have your best interest at heart. Family gatherings should be in order. Own up to your mistakes. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



Typhoon

Fabric Care

প্রথম ওয়াশেই কাপড়ের কঠিন থেকে
কঠিনতম দাগ দূর করে।

টাইফুন... লাগে কম, তাই সশ্রয় বেশী।



Fabric Care -এর
সুপার পাওয়ার

RELOCATING LIFE: The oasis of an out-stationed employee



given behind it. I have somewhat found the same solace I used to find in the chicken curry that my aunt made, at the fingertips of our office chef. Initially unsettling? Yes, true but beyond that is a meal shared with colleagues who are no less than extended family. It all made sense and would make one's heart full.

that went down that line. Moreover, I was someone who would never initiate a trip or anything of that sort. Fast forward almost a year, I would like to self-proclaim the title of 'the fastest travel packer of this century.' Jokes apart, I do have quite the travel tips up my sleeve and I sort of love it too. Glaring at the roads that lead you to beautiful destinations, waking up to a bright new sunshine every other month or just befriending places that once seemed like a dream, it all makes it worth it. Don't know about the tassel is worth the hassle but it surely helps you set perspective from a very different horizon. If not anything, long car journeys are great for sleeping. Do try!



I have always believed in a phrase that is the motto for my life. It goes something like 'So what if you need to regrow your wings? You will soar higher and rise above such things. The past year of being an outstation employee was challenging yet a wonderful catalyst for self-growth and self-discovery. So, take that job outside of your comfort zone/place/home/people because you never know what magic the other end of this world holds!

Tricky travels

For someone who would rather sit at home and Netflix her life away, being an out-stationed employee had a 360-degree effect on my lifestyle. Prior to this job, I disliked packing, travelling and anything

By Zeba Fareha Hossain

Photo: Zeba Fareha Hossain

"Home away from home" is a term we all are somewhat familiar with. However, for an outstation employee, this statement fits better than that glass shoe we see Cinderella with.

Staying in Dhaka all my life, I have seen a very different viewpoint of living. Guarded against all odds by friends, family and well-wishers, life seemed relatively easier. Once I left that safety net, the waves of realisations hit and they prevailed offshore. I was well aware of the fact that I will be on my own but what I was not aligned with were the challenges that came along the way. They were both overwhelming and exciting at the same time.

If I would have to map my journey as an outstation employee, it would be in the following order:

Delightful dwelling

Since my late teen years, I have been inherently independent. Be it my family's tough love to prepare me for the real world or my mega ego to grow up faster than the nano-second clock, it had kept me on my toes. When I decided I was willing to opt for an outstation job, I knew that this meant having a house all to myself that I had to turn into a home — my home. A humble abode that reflects my soul and energy as I head back after several long, tiring hours. From managing a kitchen that has a rarely used stove top to a small cubicle that turned into a dance floor on Thursday nights, I had to be adulting through it all. If anyone asks me today if I'd



change a thing about my halfway-messy, halfway-pretty home, I would say not in this lifetime for sure. Yes, it does get lonely at times, but those are the times I remind myself that this was one of the 100 bucket list wishes I have had. That this is just the start and I will be doing harder, more overwhelming and soul-changing activities in life that will only help me to grow. After all, being the master of your realm has its perks.

Full-bodied food

Amidst my innumerable weaknesses, the one that triumphs over all is my love for junk food. I never believed in the concept of healthy eating and would sneer at homemade food all the time. Well, I should have understood to never say never because once I started my outstation journey, I would wake up from sleep with the ailing wish to have all the homemade delicacies. Starting from aloo bhaji to shorshe ilish, home sweet home started to feel like a farfetched heaven. Nevertheless, our office chef did not disappoint. With us outstation colleagues deliberately trying to compensate for the lost fried chicken meals with flour batter fried chicken, it all came full circle. Now I have junk food but the love for deshi food is endless along with the respect regarding the three meals I received on my dining table so conveniently that I did not bother to know the effort that was



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