

Embracing Swedish Midsummer: A Bangladeshi's tale of joy and belonging

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As the sun began to set, painting the sky with hues of pink and gold, we returned to Hasse's place for fika — a cherished Swedish tradition of coffee and cake. We savoured the delicious strawberry cake, a Midsummer staple, accompanied by freshly brewed coffee. The cake, with its layers of sponge, cream, and fresh strawberries, was a sweet reminder of summer's bounty.

The simple pleasure of sharing dessert and conversation added to the warmth of the day. The ritual of fika, unhurried and comforting, felt like a moment of peace amid all the festivities.

Later in the evening, we fired up the grill for a late-night barbecue. The sizzling meat, cheese and corn's aroma filled the air, and we

enjoyed a relaxed meal under the twilight sky. The bond and laughter shared around the grill highlighted the strong bonds of friendship we had formed.

Each bite of the grilled delicacies, each sip of a cool drink, and each shared laugh felt like a thread weaving us closer together. The twilight, with its gentle fading light, seemed to cast a magical glow over our gathering, making the night feel even more special.

The night's adventure, however, did not end there. Almost missing the last bus back to my home, we found ourselves walking through the serene woods at nearly 1 AM. The tranquillity of the Swedish night, combined with the sense of adventure, made this an unforgettable part of the day.

The moonlight filtered through the trees,

casting a silvery glow on our path. We finally reached the bus stop and caught the last bus, laughing about our little misadventure. The walk, though unexpected, felt like a fitting end to a day filled with so many wonderful experiences. The serenity of the woods at night, the laughter of friends, and the shared sense of adventure made it a perfect conclusion to our celebration.

Through this Midsummer celebration, I realised that while being away from family can be challenging, having like-minded and welcoming friends can make all the difference.

My Swedish friends have opened their arms to me, making me feel at home in this beautiful country. Leaving Hasse's summer house was hard because I truly wanted to stay longer, and I look forward to

more celebrations with them. The warmth and generosity I experienced were like a comforting embrace, making me feel connected despite the physical distance from my family.

To my fellow Bangladeshis reading this, I encourage you to embrace the cultures and traditions of the places you visit. The world is full of warm-hearted people ready to share their lives and traditions with you, just as my Swedish friends have with me. Every experience, every new tradition embraced, enriches our lives and expands our hearts. Each moment, each shared tradition is a step towards a more connected and understanding world.

By Tahmina Tasnim Nitu
Photo: Courtesy

◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable. Overindulgence could result in minor health problems. Take a different approach. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Talk to peers in order to get sound advice. Travel may be confusing. Set your priorities straight. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

You might not meet your goals this week. Arguing won't help. Avoid taking on more than you can handle. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

You will learn valuable lessons if you travel this week. Don't trust co-workers. Avoid getting involved with married individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

You will communicate well this week. Keep your wits about you. Talking to your confidants will help you sort problems. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



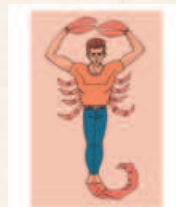
VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Avoid hanging out with co-workers. Things may not be as harmonious with your partner. Don't lose your temper. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



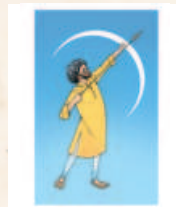
LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Take on home improvement projects. Let your boss know your goals. You will get upset over trivial matters. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Save up money for a rainy day. Your partner will get on your nerves. Professionalism will be of utmost importance. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Get involved in groups that offer physical activities. Your contributions will enhance your reputation. Look into alternate career choices. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



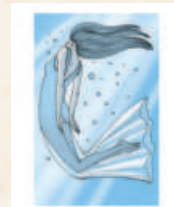
CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Put your efforts into moneymaking ventures. Your attitude may be unrealistic. Children will keep you busy. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Keep your intentions under wraps. Your personal life is in a state of upheaval. Win points by presenting your ideas this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Your efforts will bring great satisfaction. You may attract attention on social outings. Don't get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Typhoon

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কঠিনতম দাগ দূর করে।

টাইফুন... লাগে কম, তাই সশ্রয় বেশী।

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