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of
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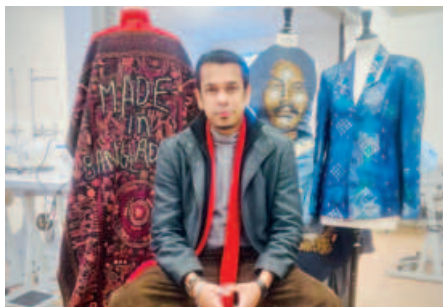
PHOTO: LS ARCHIVE/SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

Fashion revolution: Sami Alam's tribute to French-Bangladeshi ties

Bangladeshi fashion designer, Sami Alam has recently impressed the diplomatic and fashion circles of Dhaka with his latest creation for the French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Her Excellency Marie Masdupuy, in celebration of Bastille Day. For the 2024 festivities, Sami chose to highlight the splendours of Bangladeshi craftsmanship by designing a bespoke jamdani jacket for Ambassador Masdupuy.

This choice of fabric was not merely aesthetic but deeply symbolic, aligning with the revolutionary spirit of the occasion.

Sami explained, "Jamdani has always symbolised Bengal's rich cultural heritage – showcasing the exceptional talent of our local master weavers. So, I thought, for an



The jamdani jacket, meticulously tailored for Ambassador Masdupuy, featured a 100-count navy blue base, intricately patterned with silver and turquoise neem pata motifs. Its design was further elevated by a shiny silver lapel and a layered round tail, which discreetly revealed a surprise red jamdani paar on the back and beneath the sleeves — echoing the revolutionary tricolours.

Discussing the challenges of the design,

event like the French National Day, there can be nothing more iconic than jamdani."

Held annually on 14 July, Bastille Day commemorates the start of the French Revolution – a pivotal event that symbolised the end of absolute monarchy and the birth of the French Republic, embracing the enduring ideals of liberty and democracy.



Sami noted, "Creating a jamdani jacket in that particular style, given the textile's delicate nature when it comes to tailoring complex cuts and finishes, was the trickiest part. However, it was thrilling to push the boundaries of local textiles to achieve a global look."

Ambassador Masdupuy paired the jacket with red Jodhpur pants and a white top, complemented by a gold necklace, various accessories, and a classic Louis Vuitton bag. This sophisticated ensemble was not only a hit at the event but also showcased Sami's design philosophy that marries cultural reverence with contemporary style.

Reflecting on his creation from the previous year, Sami's 2023 design was equally compelling but distinctively different. For last year's Bastille Day, he crafted an outfit that featured Rajshahi silk adorned with vibrant rickshaw paintings and a graphical scarf in soft silk, all expertly assembled by an upscale local brand. This ensemble was crafted to embody a fusion of Bangladeshi vibrancy and French elegance, receiving widespread acclaim from guests and fashion enthusiasts alike.

Both of Sami's designs for these occasions not only celebrated the shared values and historical connections between Bangladesh and France but also spotlighted the versatility and global appeal of Bangladeshi textiles. The French Ambassador's enthusiastic reception of both outfits, coupled with the compliments from event attendees, emphasised the successful cultural dialogue initiated through fashion.

We equally hope that through his innovative use of traditional materials and techniques, Sami Alam may continue to redefine the boundaries of fashion — proving that clothing can serve as a powerful medium for storytelling and cultural exchange.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: i2D Communications



Typhoon

Fabric Care



প্রথম ওয়াশেই কাপড়ের কঠিন থেকে
কঠিনতম দাগ দূর করে।

টাইফুন... লাগে কম, তাই সশ্রয় বেশী।



Fabric Care -এর
সুপার পাওয়ার



Can you fall in love more than once?

For every person, falling in love might be quite distinct. And the feeling of first love? Some say it is exhilarating. However, love is like a rollercoaster ride, full of unexpected turns, highs, and lows, that may not always be what you hope. So, will you only ever experience one passionate love? Or can you fall again? And, maybe again?

Some people think that you can only experience "true love" once. When you fall in love for the first time, your mind and emotions will tell you that you need the other person more than anything else. Because of such passionate feelings, it is said that first love is the most powerful emotion ever. Many people even claim that if a person is capable of falling in love repeatedly, then what makes it so remarkable?

"I think falling in love is an eternal, celestial feeling, a longing for one person only," explained classical literature lover Raina Shahrin. "For me, real love comes with respect, loyalty and promises to hold onto each other forever. If one falls in love for the second time, it might mean that the first person never existed in their heart truly," she went on to clarify further.

The idea of "first" and "only love" exists in films — until her last breath, Rose had never loved anybody like she loved Jack. Rahul told Anjali, "We are born once, we die once, and we fall in love... once."

With all these ideas swirling on, falling in love becomes an elusive concept.

Something that once experienced, may not reoccur in your life.

A romantic at heart, Nuhash Ahmed Sharif said, "If you're looking for that TV love, someone who you can connect with on a spiritual level, who makes time go slower, whose every word you hang on to, without whom your life seems empty, well, then I believe there's just one person

love could be "easy love" since it will not be complex at all.

Stemming from this theory, 28-year-old Sana Rehman shared her story. "I had my first love at 15. At that time, I thought this was it and I would marry him someday. Unfortunately, things did not work out and I now realise we were young and saw each other through rose-coloured glasses. Fast



who's just right for you, and that's your soulmate."

There is an opposite thinking that suggests something else. Love, in some people's view, is inherently subjective and incomparable. So, according to them, you could experience falling in love even after heartbreaks. Therefore, you might find love at different stages of your life.

"We can fall in love at different times of life," voiced Mustakim Islam, known by his friends for being warm and kind.

"When I fell in love for the first time, communication was what attracted me. I built up that relationship for a long time and, proposed to her after knowing her for a year. After it ended, I was more mature and careful. But, feelings and emotions like love did emerge again for a new person."

In fact, a lot of individuals believe that we may experience love at a few times in our lives. In the beginning, we could have the first love, which can start as early as high school and lasts typically over our youth as young love. The second love could be the tough love. Here, we might learn lessons about ourselves and experience the anguish of betrayal, deception, and loss.

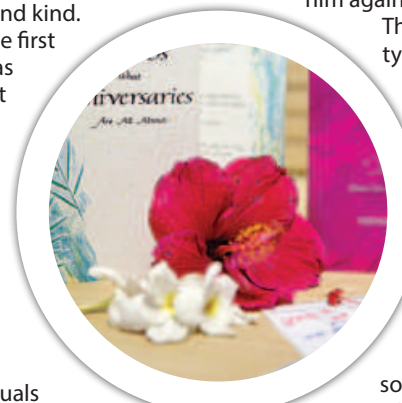
Then, there could be the love no one sees coming; it is the kind that catches you off guard and eliminates whatever preconceived notions you may have had about love. A lot of people think this kind of

forward to university, I had a boyfriend but it was ultimately after him that I met my husband, which led to my happily ever after. If you told 15-year-old me that, she would NOT believe it!"

But, are these conflicting schools of thought all there is to this question? Is it solely something that asks for a yes or no answer? As someone who loves sharing her opinion of love, marriage, and such topics, Protyasha Chowdhury stated, "I fell in love with my boyfriend in 7th grade and never looked around afterwards. It's been only him for the past 9 years. But, I did fall for him again and again over the years."

The truth is, love is a soul-tying emotion that could bring miracles in your life you were never prepared for. So, for some people, it happens once only while for others it can happen multiple times. Ultimately, knowing in your heart that the person you are with is who you see your future in is what will solidify the "true love."

When you discover love, you conquer obstacles that drag you down and sap your strength. Knowing how to love, making relationships work, and being honest with your partner are all crucial. Beyond that, however, there is no universally applicable definition of real love. You are going to find it if it is intended for you. Perhaps, you will find it in your first love. Or maybe the next. Who knows what is in our fates?





SUMMER SAREES
Comfort, style, and
a splash of vibrancy

In an exclusive interview, celebrated designer Shahrukh Amin opened up about his latest saree collection, a unique blend of traditional and contemporary that promises to redefine summer fashion.

Amin, known for his innovative approach to design, recently came out with a collection that is both comfortable and visually striking, making it a must-have for saree enthusiasts. The foundation of this collection is handloom cotton, a material that Amin described as very soft and comfortable for the hot summer months.

“Weather played a crucial role in the selection of fabric and colour,” he explained, noting that the lightness and breathability of handloom cotton make it an ideal choice for this season.

Amin’s choice of colours in his sarees is as diverse as it is vibrant. While the collection features bold hues like fuchsia, maroon, red, and orange, it is largely dominated by whites, creams, and off-white shades.

“These lighter colours are perfect for summer,” Amin said. “But I wanted to add a splash of vibrancy to keep things interesting.” The blouses accompanying the sarees offer a striking contrast, featuring brighter, more vivid shades.

Amin has made a conscious effort to use natural dyes wherever possible, in this new collection.

“To bring out the fuchsia shade, for example, I used natural dyes. I have used them to make my sarees as environmentally friendly as possible,” he shared. However, he admitted that achieving particular shades sometimes required the use of chemical dyes, as natural pigments did not always yield the right colours.

Amin’s latest collection is all about the beauty of handcrafted embellishments. Incorporating techniques, including zardozi, applique, and Victorian-style embroidery.

The designer said, “It’s a mix and match of handwork resulting in a fancy and a rather unique collection.” The use of screen print adds another layer of distinctiveness to each saree, enhancing its appeal as evening wear.

One of the most extraordinary features of Amin’s collection is its artistic presentation. Each piece is one-of-a-kind, making them a true collector’s item. His photoshoots, featuring his muse — Tanvin Sweety — showcased sarees from his collection alongside art pieces by prominent artists.

“I always wanted to work with Tanvin Sweety because she carries sarees very gracefully,” Amin said. “She has managed to retain her natural personality in the photoshoot, without giving in to a lot of drama.”

Amin has noted a global trend towards minimalism and sustainability.

“People are enjoying sustainable wear as opposed to synthetic materials or over-the-top embellishments.”

Being a strong advocate for slow fashion, the designer believes it to be the way forward.

“The process of creating each limited-edition saree was time-consuming,” he explained. “But this is the magic of slow fashion, and it is the future; people are accepting it more and more each day,” he concluded.

By Munira Fidai

Photo: Adnan Rahman

Model: Tanven Sweety

Wardrobe: Shahrukh Amin

Makeup: Sumon Rahat





Photo: Adnan Rahman
 Model: Niki
 Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
 Jewellery: Elegance by Pearl
 Makeup: Sumon Rahat

Star **LIFE** Style

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Who does not love fun, funky jewellery? One would be hard-pressed to find someone not fond of shiny, stylish trinkets. There used to be a time when summer fashion was ruled by strong diktats put forward by purists who clearly did not believe in having fun. In 2024 such rules have been flouted and thrown out of the window. There are no rules anymore and this summer styling accessories is all about expressing one's style!

JEWELLERY AS BIG AS YOUR DREAMS!

Your guide to styling accessories in summer

Large trinkets these days are not dainty but doubled in size, thus making a statement while also looking chic. Chunky, oversized necklaces are fun and can be layered with strings of stones in similar or smaller sizes, it is the perfect accessory to add pizzazz to any outfit.

Imagine a bright, sunny leisurely day. Your flowing white dress, crisp and pretty is the outfit to be worn on a day like this. But how to accessorise this beautiful dress with panache? Throw in layers of turquoise in varying sizes to bring casual elegance to your look. Stunning yet simple, this brightness of the turquoise will pop most naturally.

At the height of summer style, layered necklaces with stones varying in size are amongst the most popular accessories. Throw in a chic headscarf to channel fashionistas like Kylie Jenner or Gigi Hadid and bring a dose of heady glamour to your summery ensemble.

For the lady of leisure who likes to be chic and sophisticated, strings of pearls are the answer. Yes, you read that right! Pearls are not limited in their usage anymore to office meetings and dinner parties. They can be fun and glamorous too.

Your macramé dress will be elevated to the height of European glamour when worn with long pearl strings. While pink and natural white pearls are elegant why not mix it up a little? Choose strings with multiple colours of pearls to really shake things up while also being elegant!

The allure of pearls is such that they look good in every colour they are rendered in, especially when sported casually during summer. Your black cotton kaftan will look splendid when accessorised with gold and

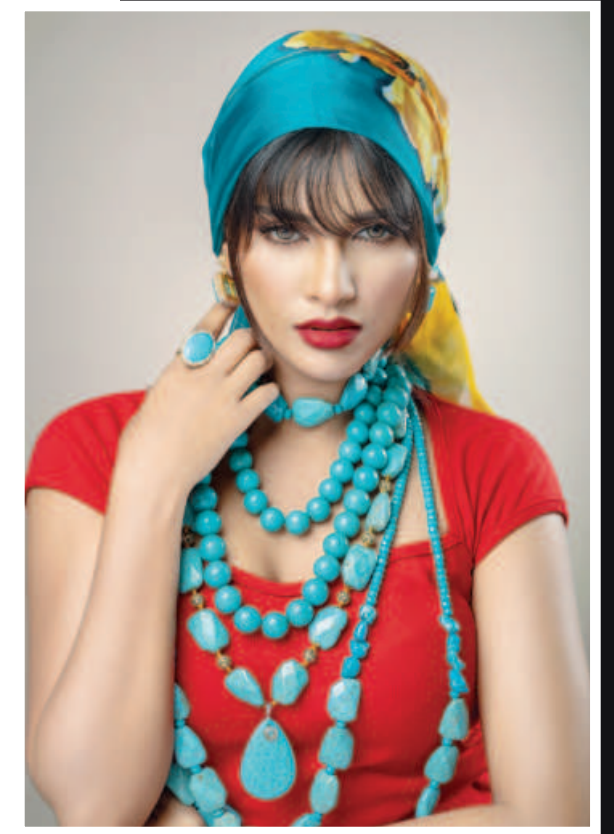
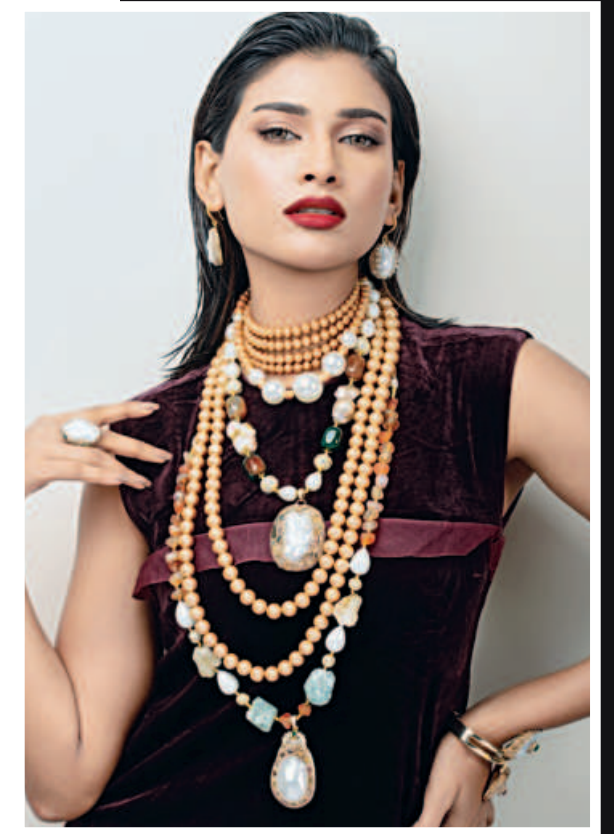


brown pearls, layered in different sizes.
 An off-shoulder white maxi will be perfectly complemented by a large, off-white, pearl choker. You could try dipping your toes in retro waters by wearing a string of pearls around your head and unleashing your inner Venus!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan

In case you were wondering where to get these beautiful trinket jewellery, they are available across all markets in Dhaka, from Eastern Mollika, Gawsia, to Bashundhara City. The prices range between Tk 200 and Tk 4000.

If you are looking for authentic pearl necklaces, the price tag will be higher. For everyday styling we suggest you go for the high-grade imitations as that would mean you can match, change, and wear them according to the colour of your wardrobe and your everyday mood.



BABYMOON BLISS

Sayma Rahman, a travel vlogger's pre-parenthood journey in Jordan

Much like a honeymoon celebrating the beginning of marital life, a babymoon celebrates the impending arrival of a new family member, offering a unique opportunity for couples to bond and bask in anticipation of their shared future before the baby arrives. Previously, many myths had persisted about travelling during pregnancy – but this is not the case anymore.

Sayma Rahman, who travelled solo to numerous countries and recently completed a 14-day hike to the Mount Everest base camp, chose Jordan for her babymoon with her husband. An experienced adventurer, Sayma shared her insights with Star Lifestyle, offering valuable tips for expectant parents on how to make the most of their babymoon.

Tailored itinerary: Prioritising comfort and safety

Traveling during pregnancy requires careful preparation. Sayma was equipped with all necessary medical approvals to ensure a safe journey.



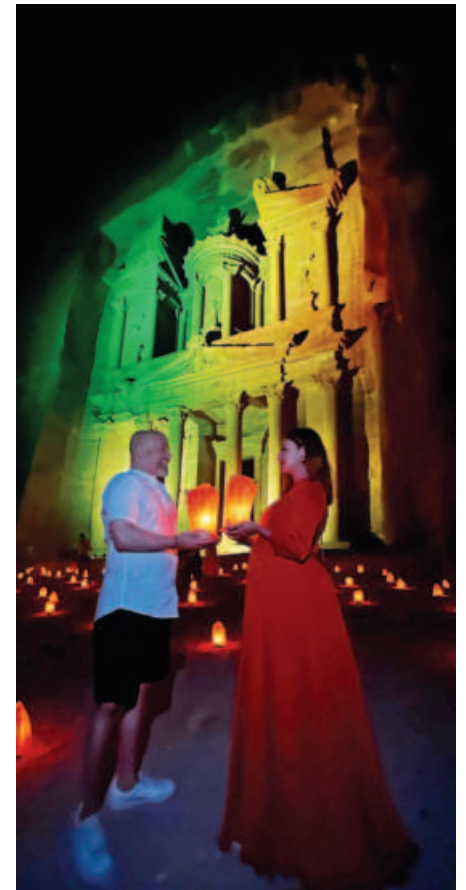
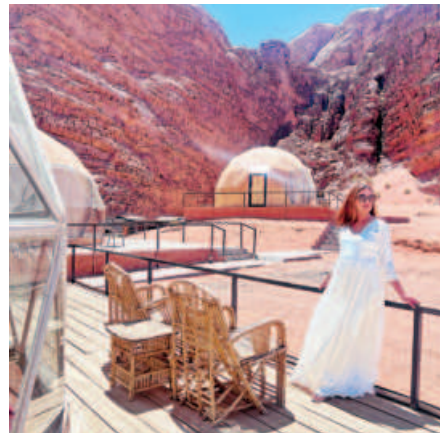
"My gynaecologist said it would be okay for me to fly and gave me the fit-to-fly certificate. Many people don't know that when an expectant mother decides to travel, she needs to show a fit-to-fly certificate," Sayma noted, appreciating her gynaecologist's foresight in guiding them through the process for both Bangladesh and Jordan.

Moreover, if the officials are informed about one's pregnancy, the expectant mother won't have to go through the hassle of a body scanner. This is one of the perks of having a fit-to-fly certificate.

The couple customised their itinerary to ensure comfort and accommodate Sayma's pregnancy. "While the original plan was extensive, we chose to focus on key sites that captured Jordan's essence, like Petra, the Dead Sea, the Jordan Valley, and Wadi Rum," Sayma said.

Tips for comfortable travel

Sayma stressed the importance of open communication with travel agents to tailor



#Lifehacks

Essential tips for expectant mothers planning a babymoon

Travelling during pregnancy comes with its own set of challenges and considerations. To ensure a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable trip, here are some essential tips for expecting mothers planning a babymoon.

Choose your destination wisely

Choose destinations that are easily accessible and not too remote. While an isolated island might sound idyllic, it's better to choose locations with good medical facilities nearby in case of any pregnancy-related emergencies. Cities or resorts well-equipped with amenities and comforts can offer both relaxation and peace of mind.

Communicate your needs to service providers

While on a babymoon, you may wish to enjoy special services such as a spa or massage or special culinary delights. Before booking a spa or massage, ensure that the service is prenatal-friendly. Inform the spa of your pregnancy when booking so they can

prepare the appropriate services and ensure a trained therapist is available.

Moreover, when making dining reservations, it's helpful to inform the restaurant of your dietary restrictions and preferences. Some might even be happy to customise dishes to suit your cravings or dietary needs, making your dining experience more enjoyable and stress-free.

Have emergency contacts ready

Always have a list of emergency contacts, including your healthcare provider and local emergency services at the destination. Additionally, carry a copy of your prenatal records and any relevant health information that might be needed in case of an emergency.

Lastly, when planning your itinerary, be realistic about what you can handle in terms of activity and walking. Plan for plenty of breaks and don't overschedule. It's important to listen to your body and rest when needed. Choose accommodations that offer comfort and easy access to local attractions to minimise unnecessary travel and fatigue.

the journey appropriately.

"He was very empathetic and helped us out with the necessary information," she said, advising other expectant parents to discuss their needs openly. Comfort was also a priority: "Always check and carry prescribed medicines. Wearing comfortable clothes is necessary, and make sure that you wear flats or sneakers," Sayma advised, recommending against high heels during pregnancy.

Sayma addressed common misconceptions about travelling during pregnancy, especially prevalent in her home country, Bangladesh. "There's a myth that pregnant women shouldn't travel, but that's not true. If your health permits, staying active is beneficial. I've found that being active keeps me vibrant and healthy," she asserted.

A memorable encounter

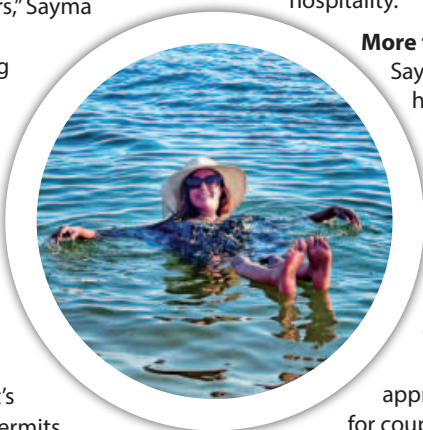
One of the trip's highlights was their visit to the Jordan Valley, where the couple delved into the historical interactions of the region's nations.

"We were touched by the openness of Jordan towards refugees. Our guide was Palestinian, and his family's warmth and hospitality allowed us to experience Palestinian culture intimately," Sayma recounted. This interaction was particularly impactful, giving them a deeper appreciation for regional dynamics and hospitality.

More than just a vacation!

Sayma Rahman and her husband returned home enriched and ready to go on board on the most significant journey of all – parenthood – with new perspectives and shared memories that would last a lifetime.

As the due date approaches, it's natural for couples to feel a mix of excitement and anxiety about the future. A babymoon offers a precious pause in these bustling preparations, providing a space to deepen the couple's connection and savour the remaining moments of being just two.



By Ayman Anika
Photo: Sayma Rahman

#PERSPECTIVE

STUDYING ABROAD IN YOUR 30S: The emotional rollercoaster of a mother



In the tranquil town of Växjö, Sweden, where the weather often shifts from serene snowfall to crisp, clear days, I embark on a journey that few might understand. In my late 30s, I am an older student navigating the complexities of higher education, far from my homeland of Bangladesh, managing a home and business remotely, and most heartbreakingly, away from my beloved children, Amayra and Azaan.



Each morning, I wake up to a silence that is both comforting and disconcerting. The stillness of my villa contrasts sharply with the lively chaos of home. As I sit down with my morning coffee, I brace myself for the day ahead — a day filled with classes, assignments, and the omnipresent struggle to belong in a foreign land. The weather in Växjö can be as unpredictable as my emotions, a metaphor for the turbulence within.

Everyday life here feels like a tightrope walk. Balancing academic responsibilities with business management leaves me drained. Anxiety and panic attacks have become unwelcome companions, creeping in during quiet moments. The fear of failure looms large, a shadow that darkens even the brightest Swedish day. It whispers incessantly, “What if you don’t succeed? What if you fail?” But the most haunting question is, “What if staying back home

In addition to my academic and business responsibilities, I am also working on a joint venture project with my friend Dennis. His unwavering support during these difficult times has been a pillar of strength for me. Along this challenging road, I have met wonderful friends and acquaintances who have gone beyond their limits to stand by me. It amazes me how some people, whom I didn’t even know a year ago, have become my constant support system in such a short time.

This financial strain adds another layer of stress to my already challenging circumstances.

The Swedish weather, with its unpredictable changes, mirrors my fluctuating emotions. There are days when the sun shines bright, casting a hopeful glow on my path. On such days, I feel invincible, ready to conquer the world. Then there are days when the grey skies and relentless rain echo my inner turmoil, making every step forward a struggle.



The decision to study abroad at this stage in life was not taken lightly. It was driven by a desire to better provide for my family, and to secure a future that holds promise and opportunities. However, the reality of living it is far more challenging than anticipated. The emotional toll is immense. I cry often, a release of the pent-up frustration, loneliness, and longing.

Being a mother away from her children is an emotional and physical trial. The guilt, the sadness, the anxiety—all form a part of my daily existence. Yet, every night as I lay down to sleep, I remind myself of my purpose. I think of Amayra and Azaan, and I find the strength to face another day.

The routine begins: checking emails, attending lectures, and making business decisions from afar. Technology has been my saving grace. Through the screen, I can see my children’s smiles, hear their laughter, and share in their daily lives, albeit virtually. Yet, as the video call ends, mummy guilt sets in, a heavy weight on my heart. I question my choices, wondering if pursuing this degree is worth the sacrifice of being away from Amayra and Azaan.

would have been better for my children?” The struggle to fit in is real. Despite the friendly and inclusive atmosphere of Linnaeus University, I often feel like an outsider. My classmates, most of whom are much younger, seem to glide effortlessly through their days. Meanwhile, I grapple with feelings of inadequacy and the overwhelming urge to return home, to where my heart truly belongs—with my children.

Despite the hardships, there are moments of resilience. There are days when I manage to pull myself up, fuelled by a sense of determination and the faint hope that this struggle will eventually pay off. I remind myself that this is a temporary phase, a stepping stone towards a brighter future. The resilience that comes with motherhood also drives me forward. If I can bring Amayra and Azaan into this world, I can surely navigate this difficult journey.

In sharing my story, I hope to reach out to others in Bangladesh who may be considering a similar path. I want to say this: pursuing education and career goals away from home is not a failure. It is a testament to our strength, our resilience, and our love for our families. It is okay to cry, to feel overwhelmed, and to miss home. What matters is that we rise each day, despite the challenges, and keep moving forward.

Sometimes, my coffee gets colder and colder as I forget to drink it, lost in the whirlwind of tasks and thoughts. My life away from home, away from my comfort zone, is something I never imagined. It is tough, especially knowing that I cannot take on any job that is available here. Financially, I am often broke, a situation I have never faced since I started working.

As I continue this journey in Växjö, amidst the fluctuating weather and my emotional storms, I hold onto the hope that one day, the sacrifices will lead to a better future for my children and myself. Until then, I take it one day at a time, fuelled by coffee, technology, and unyielding love for my children.

By Tahmina Tasnim Nitu
Photo: Courtesy



#RELATIONSHIPS AND FAMILY

HEALTHY DIETS AND STUDY ROUTINES

Fuelling your child's brain without losing yours

Every parent wants to see their child thrive and reach their full potential. However, ensuring success during crucial academic milestones is a lot of work, from fostering productive study habits to providing emotional support and promoting a balanced lifestyle.

The first step towards effective studying is a suitable environment at home — a quiet, organised space that enhances focus and productivity. Such an environment can significantly boost a child's academic performance and it can be all the more potent if it is a no-gadget zone. Implementing a digital detox during study time minimises distractions, allowing for deeper concentration and better retention of study material.

Milestone exams are complex and parents must understand the requirements themselves before they begin to help their children. Identifying a child's unique learning style, whether visual, auditory, or kinaesthetic is the next logical step. Once parents are clear about what works for their children, they can collaboratively devise a tailored study routine that plays to the child's strengths. It may be wise

to speak to their teachers in advance to know which areas of study need the most improvement.

A SMART study routine can be broken down into small, achievable goals and can therefore be less overwhelming for children. Such a routine must also contain adequate breaks and physical activity to avoid burnout. Regularly assessing and adjusting this routine ensures it remains effective and supportive. Be sure to reward your child for their hard work and dedication when they succeed in following this routine.

A good way to simulate the strictly timed exam hall scenario is to practice on old exam papers. This not only helps children understand the question structure better but also makes them feel less anxious and more confident about managing time effectively between

answers and sections.

Retention techniques and active recall methods are equally important for effective learning. Using tactics like mind maps helps organise information visually while creating cheat sheets can distil key points for quick review.

Another way of making sure your child retains exam material better is through employing revision techniques. Spaced repetition helps embed information in long-term memory by reviewing material at increasing intervals. Summarising notes consolidate understanding, while teaching the content to someone else, more commonly known as the Feynman technique, can reveal gaps in knowledge.

As important as it is to make sure your child is studying diligently during exam time, it is equally crucial to make sure they retain the energy to keep powering

through their rigorous study routines.

Falling sick due to exhaustion is a real risk so ensuring adequate sleep and a healthy, nutritious diet is a must. Try to incorporate greens, and brain food, such as granola and nuts in their diet, along with some complex carbs to fuel them through the day.

Finally, a healthy mindset is the one thing that can carry your child through this nerve-wracking period in their lives. Communicate with them regularly about their fears and allow them to vent their anxiety to you. Stress management activities, such as breathing and grounding, can help your child overcome exam jitters and your constant encouragement can give them the winning mindset they need to succeed.

By Munira Fidai
Photo: Courtesy

#TRAVEL

Discover the charm of Niladri Lake

For those yearning to break free from the clutches of hectic urban life – especially this monsoon – Niladri Lake, also known as Shaheed Siraj Lake, offers a serene retreat. Tucked away in the lush landscape of Tekerghat village in Tahirpur upazila in the Sunamganj district – Niladri Lake is a breathtaking natural reservoir that captures the vivid interplay of nature and tranquillity.

Eliza Chowdhury, who visited Niladri Lake a while back, shares, “The lake reveals its dual personality with the changing seasons. In monsoon, it brims with water, reflecting the vibrant life above and below its surface. Come winter, as the waters recede, the lakebed transforms into fertile farmland, where the local community

cultivates crops.”

“One of the lake’s significant advantages is its proximity to Tanguar Haor. Visitors often combine trips to both locations, as they are only a short boat ride away from each other,” she adds.

Adjacent to Niladri Lake rests an unused, weathered railway engine bogie, once used for transporting limestone. Visitors and photographers rarely pass up the opportunity to immortalise the lake’s views and the encircling mountains through their cameras.

So, how to reach Niladri Lake?

Chowdhury informs, “During monsoon, you have to take a boat ride to reach the lake. But in winter, bikes or autorickshaws

can be hired for the trip. If you are travelling with a tour group to Tanguar Haor, I would suggest paying a visit to Niladri Lake, which is relatively easy.”

Every day, buses depart from Sayedabad bus terminal and Mohakhali in Dhaka for Sunamganj. So, if you are a resident of the city, hop on a bus and head towards Sunamganj. From there, local transport options like autorickshaws and private cars can be hired to reach Tahirpur, which serves as the gateway to Niladri Lake.

Moreover, an intercity train departs from Dhaka for Mohanganj in Netrokona. Tourists have the option to hire trawlers, speedboats, or boats directly from Netrokona to Tekerghat. In the winter

months, motorcycles are used to transport visitors directly from Netrokona to Tekerghat.

Niladri Lake appeals to a wide range of travellers – from those seeking solitude and couples desiring a romantic backdrop – to families eager to explore new landscapes together. So, plan a trip to Niladri Lake this monsoon and let its tranquil waters and soothing landscapes rejuvenate your spirit.

And remember to keep the pristine condition of the lake by disposing of waste properly and not disturbing the natural habitats.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Eliza Chowdhury

◆ HOROSCOPE ◆



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Your energetic nature will make you popular. Keep your feelings to yourself. You will do well in social events. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

You will have plenty of good ideas. You might meet a new romantic partner. Find ways to soothe your nerves. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Romantic opportunities may not be as they appear. Don't be pushy at work. Call loved ones to catch up. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Your childlike quality may get you into trouble. Investments may not pay off. Don't let your stubbornness blind you. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



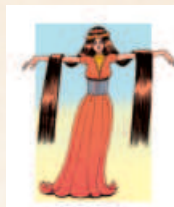
LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Secret affairs will lead to deception. Don't make excuses. Avoid problematic individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



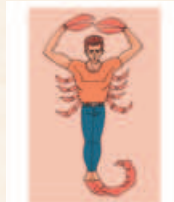
VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Make time for old friends. Problems with your partner will escalate. Don't be transparent about your negative thoughts. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



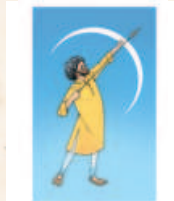
LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Avoid disappointment by making amends. Reconsider your professional direction. Someone close to you may need help. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Expand your horizons by interacting with foreigners. Things at work will leave you feeling uncertain. Accept the inevitable. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Don't overspend on entertainment. Think twice before pursuing an unrealistic endeavour. Get yourself some sound advice to break the confusion. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Treat your partner well. Re-evaluate your motives regarding friendships. Don't overreact to someone's advances. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Be accommodating for the time being. Sudden romantic infatuations won't last. Don't let rose-tinted glasses cloud your judgement. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Your partner will trigger you this week. Don't let jealousy mess you up. Concentrate on your career and on making money. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

স্বপ্নের ছোয়ায়, তোমার উপমায়,
বদলে দিলে যে আমায়...

অ্যান্ডামিনা
সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আন্ডিজাস্ত্য...

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL

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#DECOR

DINING TABLE DECISIONS: Choosing the dining table according to your family size

The dining room is one place in the house where everyone gathers around. So, it is important to pick a dining table that complements your style, space, and family dynamics. Whatever your needs may be, we have handpicked some ideas for dining tables that could assist you in making a well-informed decision.

A simple four-chair dining table is among the most common. This table is ideal for families of three or four as it is relatively small and has smooth edges, making it easy to move about the dining area. A wooden four-seater dinner table set is a common choice for families who want to spend quality time together over meals. Plus, it will look great in your dining room while taking up very little space.

Rectangular tables are great for big dining rooms as they can seat varying numbers of people. They are perfect for hosting parties and having family meals because of their conventional style and classic appearance. They might also be decked up in many decorations, depending on the occasion, because of their size.

Some families have open kitchens; they can pick a small, round, dining table and chairs that will not take up too much space. You could hang a pendant light above the table to make it stand out. To make the small space even better and create an intimate atmosphere, you can add candlelight or flowers as centrepieces.

If you are part of a joint family, you probably need a dining table that can seat a large number of people. In such cases, you



may make the most of a dining room with a narrow, long hardwood table. When people get together, narrow dining tables can make things lively. Aesthetic additions like table runners, handkerchiefs, and flowers may also be used for decoration.

Dining tables that complement your treasured home might, however, be rather pricey. To that end, being able to spread out the cost over many months may be a lifesaver. An example of this is the EMI (equated monthly instalment) payment scheme.

As the name implies, the instalment

payments are equal. Since the payment is also spread out over an extended amount of time, it could be helpful for budgeting as you could stretch the expense of a big purchase out over many months.

Nowadays, many furniture companies offer EMI payment plans to help smoothen the purchase for customers. Needless to say, this way you can easily have the dining room of your dreams without breaking the bank!

By Samayla Mahjabin Koishy
 Photo: Courtesy



Yearlong EMI Facilities

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