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Glamour *meets* HERITAGE

A HAVEN FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS
EXPLORE BANGLADESH'S STUNNING BIRDWATCHING SPOTS P2

SPOT THE SIGNS, SAVE A LIFE
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FOGGY MORNINGS, CINEMATIC SCENES
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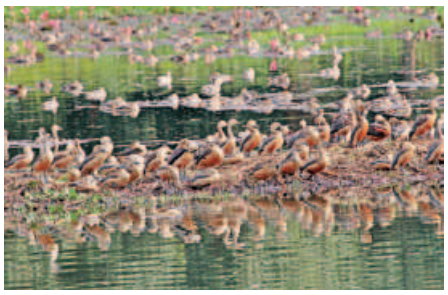
PHOTO: ADNAN RAHMAN ● MODEL: MYSHA, NIKI ● STYLING: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA ● WARDROBE: AUDRIANA EXCLUSIVES
JEWELLERY: ARAAZ EXCLUSIVE ● MAKEUP: SUMON RAHAT & TEAM ● SET DESIGN: ESKAY DÉCOR BY SAIMUL KARIM

#HOBBIES

Best places to spot migratory birds in Bangladesh this winter

The arrival of visitor birds aligns with the arrival of winter in Bangladesh. With the onset of pleasant winter conditions in our homeland, one without snow and hail but with the availability of ample food resources, Bangladesh becomes a lucrative temporary home for the migratory birds. The visitors, however return back to their homeland around February and March, when the harsh winter weather have subsided. Given the beauty of nature, this makes a great time for bird watchers to witness exotic and rare birds from foreign countries. Here are some key locations for the bird enthusiasts to spot migratory birds in Bangladesh during winter:

Hakaluki Haor, Sylhet-Moulvibazar
Hakaluki Haor, a marsh wetland located



in northeastern Bangladesh, is one of the largest wetlands in the country, as well as in South Asia. The wetland serves as a perfect shelter for the thousands of migratory birds in the winter season.

Birds such as Gadwall (Piyang Hansh), Ruddy Shelduck (Chokha- Chokhi), African Pied Wagtail (Khonjon), Northern Shoveler (Pantamukhi/ Utture Khuntehansh), Cotton Pygmy Goose (Balihansh/ Belehansh), Pintail Duck (Lenja Hansh/ Kaldigheri), Red-Crested Pochard (Rangamuri) and other migratory birds are easily noticeable in Hakaluki Haor.

Nijhum Dwip, Noakhali
Nijhum Dwip is a beautiful coastal island located in the district of Noakhali. During winter, a significant number of migratory water birds, including several globally threatened species, reach the island.

Indian Skimmer (Deshi Gangchosha) — which can be found only in this area in Bangladesh, Black-headed Ibis (Kalomatha Kastechora), Black-tailed Godwit (Kalo Lej Jourali), Pied Avocet (Khoaj), Kentish Plover (Jiriya), Little Stint (Bamon Chapakhi), Curlew Sandpiper (Gulinda Batan), Redshank (Lal Pa Piu) and Greenshank (Pati Shobuj Pa) are some of the rare guest birds that can be found in Nijhum Dwip.

Char Kukri Mukri, Bhola
Char Kukri Mukri is a coastal island located in Bhola district, a destination for numerous migratory bird species, making it an excellent location for bird enthusiasts.

From November to February, the island attracts various waders or shorebirds, including the endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper (Chamoch-Thuto Batan) and other migratory species.

Baikka Beel, Moulvibazar
Since 2003, Baikka Beel in Moulvibazar, has been a permanent wetland sanctuary where fishing is not allowed. This protection attracts a large number of migratory birds every winter, as there is no shortage for their food. For this reason, the sanctuary has become a popular spot for bird lovers to enjoy its beautiful scenery, and that includes varieties of birds flying around.

Chalan Beel, Sirajganj-Natore-Pabna
Chalan Beel is the largest wetland in northwestern Bangladesh. The water level of the wetland transforms significantly with the change of the seasons. From the month of October, migratory birds start to arrive at Chalan Beel, bringing life to the area.

Snipe (Kadakhoncha), Cotton Pygmy Goose (Balihansh/ Belehansh), Oriental Darter (Goyar), Pintail Duck (Lenja Hansh/ Kaldigheri) are the most common migratory birds that can be found in Chalan Beel.

Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka
As the number of birds has declined in recent years, as many as 20-25 species can still be spotted around the areas such as Monpura, Pritilata Hall, Murad Chattar, and other locations in the Jahangirnagar campus. The greeneries and available food sources at the campus create a safe haven for these birds.

These seasonal sceneries attract not only students, but also numerous visitors and bird enthusiasts, looking for an escape from the busy city life, as the campus is not very far from Dhaka city.

By Jawwad Sami Neogi
Photo: STAR

#HEALTH & FITNESS

Early signs of heart attack: What every Bangladeshi should know

Did you know that according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), in 2022, 17.45 per cent of the deaths in Bangladesh were attributed to heart attacks? The abrupt cutting off of blood flow to the heart muscle causes a heart attack. Because of this obstruction, the heart is unable to pump blood efficiently.

"In Bangladesh, heart pains start from 30 years of age. It is very dangerous now around the age range of 30 to 45 years," shared Dr Saidur Rahman Khan, Cardiologist at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital.

Although most of the time, heart attacks might lead to fatalities, the occurrence could be avoided if individuals were better informed about warning signs and could react quickly in the case of an emergency. Anyone at any moment may have a sudden cardiac arrest. Therefore, you must educate yourself on how to be ready to save a life.

Heart attack symptoms might differ from person to person. The acute, crushing chest pain that the majority of us are familiar with is not often the first symptom. "Sometimes a heart attack might come off as acidity to a patient. However, if the chest pain happens frequently on minor exertions, they have to think of it as heart disease," explained Dr Saidur.

One might feel pain when resting or moving. The severity can change based on age, gender, and health. "Genetics is one of the primary factors influencing heart disease. If a person faces major discomfort when climbing stairs, doing something strenuous, or their chest hurts during day-to-day work, they should consult a doctor

immediately," Dr Saidur elaborated further.

Additional signs may include rapid heart rate, profuse perspiration, seizures, severe lethargy, or difficulty breathing. Sadly, many postpone treatment because they doubt they ever had a heart attack. They would like to not cause any trouble or concern for their loved ones. Nevertheless, it is wise to stay cautious if you are near someone and see them in any of the affected states.

In regards to that, Dr Saidur shared his insights, stating, "We recommend quick action. It is advised that a patient not wait a day or more. They should go visit their doctor the very day they feel bad. They could undergo exercise tolerance test primarily, which can help identify the severity of the heart disease."

So, what are the things you should keep in mind? Well, if you or someone you are with has chest pain or other heart attack symptoms, contact an ambulance. Since emergency medical services are prepared to restart a person's heart if it stops beating, treatment may begin on route to the hospital. If emergency medical services are unavailable, drive the patient to a nearby hospital.

To further guarantee the patient's comfort, you should position them so that they may sit on the floor, lean against a chair or wall, and have their head supported. The pressure on the heart may be reduced by sitting. They are also less likely to injure themselves in the event of a fall if they are seated on the floor.

If things get worse and the person stops breathing or does not have a pulse, you should start CPR. Just use your hands to do CPR if you do not have any training in the technique. This necessitates rapid and forceful pressure on the chest, roughly 100 to 120 times each minute. If you are competent in CPR and have had training, do 30 chest compressions first, followed by two rescue breaths.

It is also important that you not leave the individual alone. Loved ones may attempt to downplay an emergency, but you must not let them persuade you to not seek aid by denying the signs. Keep them company and provide encouraging words so that they never feel alone. Moreover, the individual should not be given anything orally unless doctors have specifically prescribed a heart medication.

Compared to a few decades ago, the likelihood of surviving a coronary event is much higher today. Act immediately if you or someone you care about is showing signs of a heart attack. It is wise to exercise caution and seek medical attention when you see signs of potential heart problems than to ignore them and risk permanent harm to your heart.

By Samayla Mahjabin Koishy
Photo: Star Lifestyle / Collected

#CHECK IT OUT

5 SAREE BLOUSE STYLES that are always in fashion

A quintessential component to wearing a saree is the blouse and this ought to be a staple in every woman's wardrobe. They enhance the elegance of a saree and give countless ways to express personal style, thanks to their diverse designs, cuts, and fabrics. The variety of styles accommodates various events, moods, and fashion tastes ranging from a classic and sophisticated look to modern and chic.

Sarees are timeless and the versatility of blouses can change the entire look to adapt to the occasion. From recreating looks from the past to making an elegant, modern outfit, the following styles are bound to be a statement.

Plain solid colours

A well-fitting, well-made plain piece gives you dependable alternatives for mixing and matching, making them a classic and timeless addition to your wardrobe. They go well with different types of sarees because of their simplicity and adaptability. Intricately designed sarees can be effortlessly balanced with neutral hued blouses like black, white, beige, or gold, that accentuate the design while maintaining an elegant appearance.

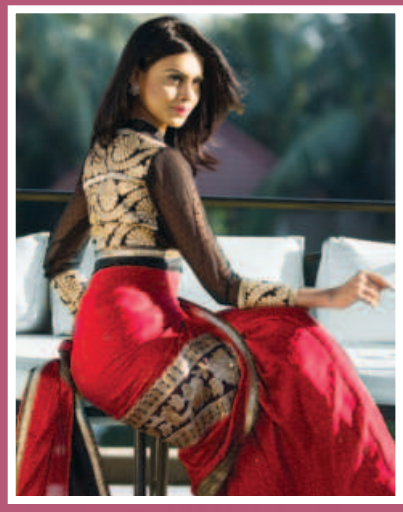
Additionally, solid-coloured tops are very versatile. These can be easily styled to fit any occasion, whether you are attending a celebration, a formal function, or a laid-back get-together.

Plain pieces give you a blank canvas to accessorise, allowing you to draw attention to jewellery and other statement pieces. The simplicity of plain and solid-coloured blouses avoids pattern clashes and keeps the entire look appearing too crowded.

Golden or silver with beaded embroidery

Beaded with silver or gold embroidery are equally elegant and versatile. These can be tailored to your personal style to be eye-catching either with minimal designs or with heavy embroidery. Additionally, they pair well with lightweight chiffon and georgette as well as traditional silk and Banarasi.

Ideal for evening parties, weddings, and celebrations because of the glamorous colour, shimmer and beaded embroidery, these have the ability to transform even the most basic saree into a festive, sophisticated attire with a regal flare.



Collared

Step back into the '90s aesthetic with a collared design and embrace the charm. These are ideal for both professional and casual settings because of their simplistic elegance, which adds a polished touch. This gained popularity in the 1990s and was frequently worn by celebrities and fashionistas with cotton or chiffon sarees for a sophisticated yet approachable appearance.

When paired with simple sarees, they radiate a sense of vintage charm. You can dress up a collared blouse with a high bun and bold eyeliner that will enhance the vintage flare.

To fully embrace the '90s style, choose muted hues, checks, or pastels which are must-haves for achieving an effortlessly elegant 1990s-inspired saree style, and they are perfect for workplace wear, lunch dates, or even semi-formal occasions.

Sleeveless or net-sleeves

Sleeveless or net-sleeve designs are also ideal for evoking the classic style of the 1990s. These looks, which are frequently accessorised by the era's Bollywood stars, radiate charm and classic appeal.

They have a clean, simple silhouette that goes well with light chiffon or georgette sarees, perfectly capturing the elegance and simplicity of the 1990s. Net-sleeve blouses, which are reminiscent of the ethereal appearances worn by actresses in vintage movies, offer a hint of glitz and femininity.

Backless

A backless blouse can create a striking look and turn even a basic saree into a statement piece, making it perfect for cocktail parties and evening occasions. Its striking pattern draws attention to the back elegantly while showcasing imaginative accents like tassels, strings, or elaborate stitching.

This adaptable style has a sophisticated yet sensual appeal when combined with more opulent sarees like satin or sequins and lighter textiles like chiffon or georgette. Additionally, a backless top accentuates your posture and confidence and highlights statement pieces like a bold necklace or earrings.

An indispensable addition to your saree collection, a backless blouse gives the ideal balance of refinement and attractiveness, regardless of your preference for traditional clothing or contemporary styles.

By Puja Sarkar
Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Forever in love with everything Bangladeshi

We Bangladeshis are a fiercely patriotic lot. We love our food, culture, traditions, chaos, and everything else in between. Whenever we go overseas, our collective love for Bangladesh stands strong, and we uphold our roots and values, however possible. So, why is it that when it comes to fashion, some of us tend to favour the ways of our neighbouring countries?

Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model: Mysha, Niki
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Wardrobe: Audriana Exclusives
Jewellery: Araaz Exclusive
Makeup: Sumon Rahat & Team
Set Design: Eskay Décor by Saimul Karim

To be BOLDLY Bangladeshi!

Sartorially speaking, Bangladeshi fashion scene was in its infancy in the early nineties. As a relatively young country, it was grappling hard to find its identity, and that reflected in the way the masses dressed. Apart from a handful of designers creating niche clothing for a particular segment of society, there wasn't much by way of bridal wear. And even in that segment, choices were seriously limited. Women, in general, were only exposed to Bollywood movies consumed through VCR's, which greatly influenced everyone's fashion choices.

Bangladeshi cinema was at its worst possible phase; actors mostly dressed in crazy, outlandish costumes that had zero fashionable impact on the audience. Celebrity culture didn't exist here; television actors like Bipasha Hayat, Shomi Kaiser, Afsana Mimi, and others exuded the very approachable girl-next-door vibe! So, their style sensibilities were not a matter of great interest, as they dressed simply, like everyone else, both onscreen and off.

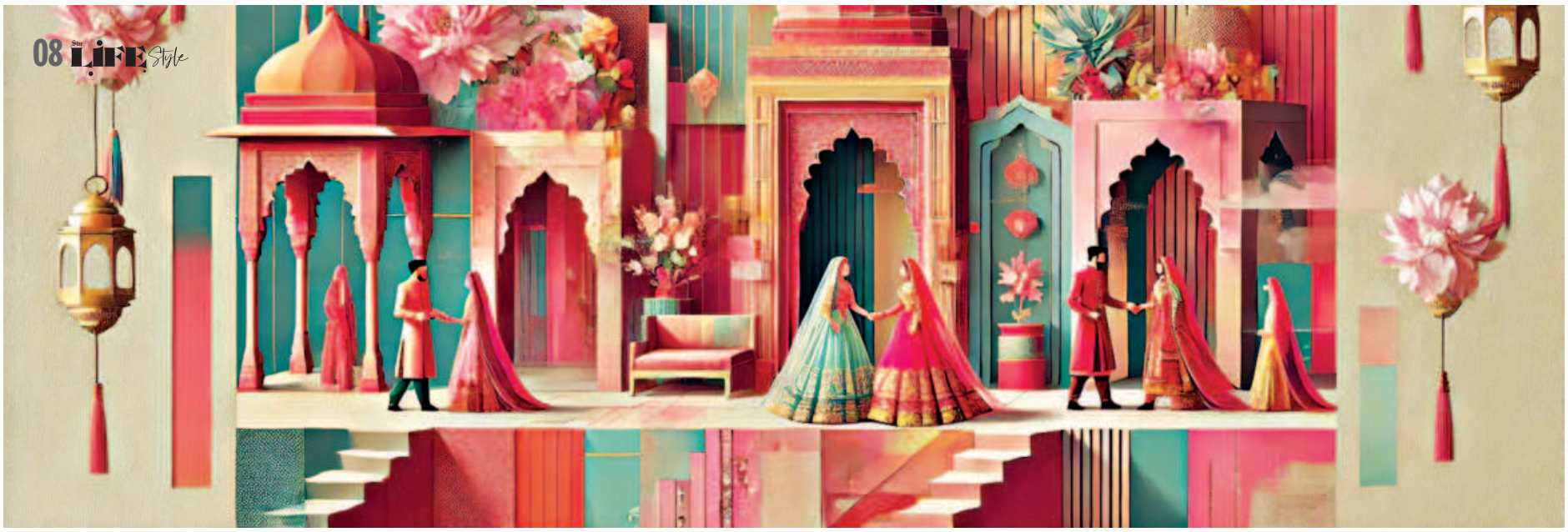
Bangladeshi bridal style, as we know it, didn't exist back then. Katan sarees were the only option. Lehengas were not made by designers locally, and had to be sourced from either India or Pakistan. So, a stylish young woman who worshipped Karishma Kapoor was in a serious style caveat, and would happily fly to Kolkata or Delhi for the latest lehenga or saree for her big day!

Ah, how times have changed! Now, in 2025, the Bangladeshi fashion scene is at its finest, most exciting phase ever. Fantastic new designers are creating incredible designs that would rival anything our neighbours can do, any day. Starting from the craftsmanship to materials to designs, these creations are on par with the best designers from across the pond, and we are all for it! Heritage materials like katan, jamdani, muslin, taant, and many others are being recognised, reinvented, and proudly sported by cosmopolitan brides who have travelled the world, and yet, choose to embrace their own Bangaliana.

And why not? The responsibility to uplift our culture, our heritage, is on our shoulders, and we must bring Bangladeshi fashion to the forefront. Be proud of it, because is it worthy of adulation. Many Bangladeshi designers and fashion houses routinely hold fashion shows in major cities across the world and receive accolades for their individuality and pride in Bangladeshi fashion. Images of Bangladeshi brides wearing locally designed and produced outfits on her wedding day in a foreign destination is not uncommon anymore, and should be the norm!

A bride these days is spoiled for choice. She has so many amazing options right here at home — from jewellery to outfits to accessories. Customisation is the forte for all of these places, which may not always be an option overseas. Designers specialising in bridal fashion offer all kinds of services to brides and grooms, such as last-minute fitting, pagri tying, customised dupatttas, and personalisation, among many others. Every bride is different, and her personal style is best reflected in a couture design created especially for her. And what could be more beautiful than a bridal outfit made in Bangladesh?

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan
Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model: Mysha, Niki
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Wardrobe: Audriana Exclusives
Jewellery: Araaz Exclusive
Makeup: Sumon Rahat & Team
Set Design: Eskay Décor by Saimul Karim



#HUMOUR

DHAKA WEDDINGS

From Marigolds to Mughal Durbar and Instagram Reels

Once upon a time, weddings in Dhaka were simple, joyous affairs. The bride wore red, the groom wore something vaguely traditional, and the decorations consisted of marigolds and fairy lights. Now? We have entered an Orwellian wedding verse where the mehendi stage must resemble a Mughal durbar, the bride's lehenga must match the dulabhai's pocket square, and the guests are required to follow dress codes stricter than an embassy visa checklist!

It all starts with the colour code. This is not a suggestion — it's a decree. Your invitation will come with a line that reads, "Attire: Shades of Pastel," as if wearing something outside the prescribed palette is a personal attack on the family's honour. Show up in red when the theme is "Blush Pink and Mint," and you are essentially declaring war. Somewhere in the corner, an aunty will whisper, "She clearly wore that to stand out."

Even if you obediently follow the colour scheme, you are not off the hook. There's also the dress code, which has evolved into a fashion gauntlet. Gone are the days when "traditional attire" sufficed. Now it's "Contemporary Bohemian Chic" or "Rajasthani Regal with a Modern Twist!"

What does that even mean? Nobody knows. Meanwhile, the men are sentenced to sherwanis in "peach" or "dusty rose"— shades that sound more like dessert names than acceptable menswear.

And then there's the decor.

Weddings today are not just events; they are productions. The mehendi cannot just have some fairy lights and a dhol — it has to be a "Moroccan Paradise," complete with lanterns imported from Turkey. The nikkah must feature a floral arch so intricate it looks like the set of a Bollywood rom-com. Every single detail must "match the vibe," from the tablecloths to the dessert forks.

The obsession with themes does not stop at decor. Even the food must fit. Buffets are curated to feature "fusion cuisine," which usually means replacing the dependable kachchi biryani with sushi and sliders because what's a wedding without raw fish? And yet, no matter how fancy the menu, the kachchi aloo mysteriously disappears halfway through dinner, leaving a room full of angry guests wondering if they have been scammed.

But let's not kid ourselves — this madness is all for Instagram. Weddings are no longer about celebrating love; they are about curating content. From the bride's entrance (accompanied by drones and fog machines) to the synchronised sangeet performances, every moment is designed for maximum likes. Half the guests are too busy filming their chaat plates to eat them.

The end result? A wedding that looks perfect but feels exhausting. Guests spend more time navigating the dress code and rehearsing their sangeet routines than actually enjoying the event. Couples pour lakhs into creating a "vibe" that lasts a single evening while their guests leave with sore feet and blurry phone photos.

So, the next time you are invited to a wedding with a 12-page theme guide, remember: it's not about you. It's about the reels.

By Noshin Nawal
Illustration by Noshin Nawal / LS Archive / Sazzad Ibne Sayed

#TRAVEL

Sylhet's top 5 boat ride experiences

The air carries a subtle crispness and nature adorns itself in a delicate frosty charm signalling winter is here! And in winter, Sylhet unfolds its enchanting beauty in a new light. As the sun casts its golden glow upon mist-kissed landscapes and the rivers weave through a winter tapestry, there's no better time for a boat expedition in this northeastern haven of Bangladesh.

To make your winter expedition more delightful, we present you a list of 5 boat rides that promise to take you on a journey of awe and wonder.

Ratargul Swamp Forest

The enchanting freshwater swamp forest of Ratargul, located in Gowain River, Sylhet, offers unique boat rides through its mystical waters to nature enthusiasts. Flanked by half-submerged trees and vibrant foliage, a boat ride through the emerald-green waters is nothing short of a surreal experience. As your boat glides through the narrow channels, you will be serenaded by the melodious tunes of exotic birds and occasional sightings of snakes and various insects.

Ratargul Swamp Forest promises an immersive journey into the heart of nature's tranquillity, and to get there, you can hire engine boats, commonly known as trawlers from Gowainghat.

Lalakhal

Surrounded by hills and Meghalaya Mountain ranges, the water of Lalakhal is adorned with shades of blue that defy description. A boat ride on Lalakhal offers a mesmerising experience as you float on the azure waters, surrounded by stretches of greenery and Lalakhal Tea Garden.

Winter should be a perfect time for you to visit. As there is not much water in this season, you will be greeted by calm and transparent blue-green water and the hubbub of migratory birds. With its crystal-clear waters and vibrant birdlife, Lalakhal offers a respite from the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

The boat trip typically begins at Sharighat Bridge and to reach here, you can start your journey from Sylhet city. At Sharighat, you will find local boat operators offering their services.

Lovachara

Lovachora, a hidden gem in the captivating landscapes of Sylhet, invites adventurers to explore its beauty through a serene boat ride. Located at Kanaighat upazila, a boat through the Lova River will offer you a view of lush tea gardens and far-flung hilltops of the Khasia-Jainta mountains of Meghalaya.

To enjoy the boat ride at Lova River, you have to go to Kanaighat Sadar first. Upon reaching Kanaighat Sadar, you can take a boat from the local boat pier to navigate the Lova River, leading you to the pristine beauty of Lovachora. The boat ride itself is a mesmerising experience offering views of lush greenery and serene waters.

Bichanakandi

Bichnakandi, a hidden gem tucked away in the rustic landscapes of Sylhet, offers a boat ride like no other. The journey begins from Hadarpar Bazar Ghat amidst crystal-clear turquoise waters surrounded by limestone hills. The boats, which can be reserved from the ghat, navigate through the serene water, revealing secret hills and submerged bountiful greenery.

As the boat glides smoothly, the surreal beauty of Bichnakandi unfolds, creating a sense of otherworldly magic. The juxtaposition of the boat's gentle movement against the rugged cliffs and pristine waters is a visual symphony that will linger in your memory.

Tanguar Haor

Tanguar Haor, nestled in the Dharmapasha and Tahirpur upazilas of Sunamganj district, Sylhet is a natural wetland, adorned with lush greenery and vibrant aquatic life, offers a unique and enchanting experience for those who embark on its tranquil waters.

Local boat operators are available, ready to assist you in arranging boat rides to explore the breath-taking beauty of Tanguar Haor. To make the most of your Tanguar Haor visit, you can witness the local life and biodiversity of the haor by staying in a houseboat.

Whether you are a nature lover, an adventure seeker, or someone in search of tranquillity, the boat ride at Tanguar Haor promises an experience that will linger in your memory for a long time.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Farhan Alvee

#PERSPECTIVE

How fog creates Dhaka's most instagrammable season

Winter in Dhaka is many things — jacket and layer-up season, rooftop BBQ season, and, perhaps most surprisingly, fog season. As the city wraps itself in a misty embrace, everything takes on a cinematic quality. That dusty street you pass every day? Now a moody black-and-white still. The *tong-er dokan* on the corner? A quaint countryside café in the making. Fog turns the city into an unlikely Instagram wonderland, and Dhakaites are leaning into it with a fervour that only they can muster.

Fog has a peculiar, almost mystical tendency to elevate the commonplace to the exceptional. The

rickshaw capital's often hard edges are blurred by the foggy mornings, which also reduce the turmoil, and give the most ordinary images in the city an air of wonder.

The Rickshaw Diaries: A lone rickshaw emerging from the fog becomes the subject of a thousand poetic captions.

The Tree-lined Streets of Dhanmondi: With the fog rolling in, these paths look like a scene out of a dreamy art film, complete with moody lighting and muted colours.

The Bridges of Hatirjheel: At sunrise, when the fog hovers just above the water, it feels like you've stumbled into a Bengali edition of *La La Land*.

It's as if the fog knows the city's residents are secretly romantic at heart.

Fog essentially acts as nature's own Instagram filter. It softens harsh light, dulls unsightly backgrounds, and gives everything a natural glow. For selfie enthusiasts, this means fewer touch-ups and more flawless *"golden hour"* shots.

A foggy scene always carries a sense of mystery. It's why Dhakaites are suddenly captioning their posts with cryptic lines like, *"Lost in the mist, found in the moment."* Even if the reality is that they're standing outside Gulshan 2 circle waiting for a CNG.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11

Step into the new school year with Bata B-First Anti-Bacterial school shoes

The new school year is upon us, and with it comes the unmistakable chaos: early morning rushes, perfectly ironed uniforms that rarely survive tiffin break, and the sound of children dashing about like Dhaka's traffic during rush hour — unstoppable and full of energy. As parents, keeping up with their boundless enthusiasm is a task, but Bata steps in to ensure their feet can.

Introducing Bata B-First Anti-Bacterial School Shoes, a perfect blend of durability,

comfort, and care that every Bangladeshi parent has been searching for.

When Footwear Meets Reality

Children are Dhaka's equivalent of little explorers; they don't just walk to school; they run, hop, and stomp through every puddle as if it were their adventures. At the end of the day, their shoes frequently smell like they've been through an entire street marathon. The cause is sweat-induced bacteria, which are obsessed with making your child's feet smell like their own sweat locker.

But worry not, Bata has cracked the code with its B-First Anti-Bacterial School Shoes. Designed with built-in anti-bacterial technology, these shoes fight off odour and germs. From endless classroom hours to playground marathons, Bata B-First shoes provide a snug yet breathable fit that ensures kids' feet remain fresh and irritation-free.

Style Meets Practicality

Who says school shoes have to be boring? With sleek black and white options, Bata lets you tick all the boxes without compromising style or uniform rules. Whether your child is more of a playground superstar or a library whisperer, these shoes have the style and substance to keep them on top of their game. And yes, they come in all sizes — because when it comes to supporting your child, Bata leaves no one behind.

Affordable Care That's Easy on the Wallet

Bangladeshi parents know all too well how quickly children outgrow their shoes. The cycle of buying new footwear every year can feel like the annual ritual. Bata B-First shoes, however, offer a solution that's as durable as it is cost-effective. And here's a little bonus: pay with bKash, and you'll get a 10 per cent instant cashback. That's what we call a deal worth running for!

Step Into a Confident School Year

There's enough to worry about as the school year begins — traffic jams, homework wars, and missing lunch boxes are just the tip of the iceberg. With Bata B-First Anti-Bacterial School Shoes, at least your child's feet are one less thing to stress over.

So, why wait? Visit your nearest Bata store or shop online today. As a parent, take some comfort in knowing that your child will enter school with confidence. After all, wearing Bata is about entering a worry-free future, not simply about shoes.

Bata B-First Anti-Bacterial School Shoes

Durability. Comfort. Care. Because childhood adventures deserve better.

Offer Alert: Get 10% cashback with bKash. Hurry, before your child grows another shoe size!

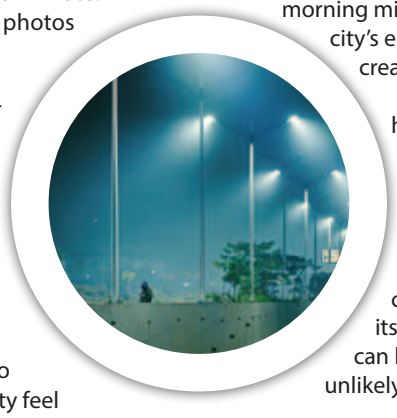
Photo: Courtesy

How fog creates Dhaka's most instagrammable season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

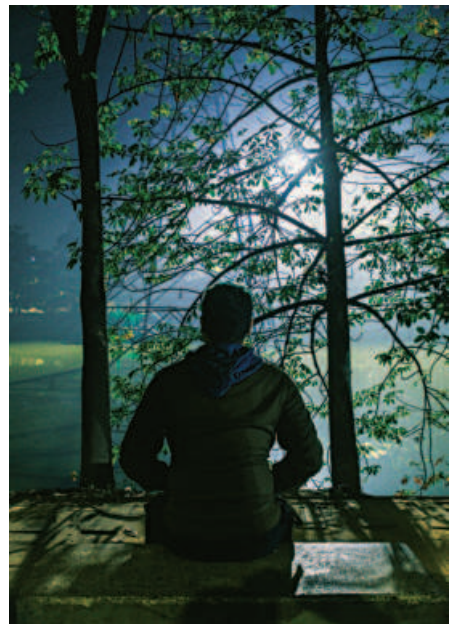
Best of all, fog doesn't discriminate. Whether you're snapping photos in the upscale streets of Banani or capturing the silhouette of a tea vendor in Old Dhaka, the visual appeal is universal. It bridges city's divides, making everyone feel like they're part of the same hazy winter magic.

For all its chaos, winter holds an unassuming charm that fog amplifies to perfection. It makes the city feel softer, slower, and just a bit more magical — qualities often overshadowed by its day-to-day grind. The fact that people are finding beauty in something as fleeting as morning mist speaks volumes about city's enduring resilience and creativity.



It's obvious that fog has evolved into more than simply a seasonal oddity as the capital maintains its obsession with it. It serves as a reminder that even in a city that is renowned for its relentless speed, beauty can be discovered in the most unlikely locations.

By K Tanzeel Zaman
Photo: Shahriar Kabir Heemel



HOROSCOPE

ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Relationships will be problematic. You may be overly emotional with your partner. Opposition is present; counteract it as best you can. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Do your own thing. Strength will come from overtaking others. Impress others with initiative during short business trips. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Direct your energy into productive goals. Avoid letting loved ones know your plans. Trying to do too much may leave you exhausted. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Avoid arguments with conservative relatives. Don't begin new projects this week. Travel may be rewarding. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Don't let situations get out of hand. Emotional relationships will flourish in group activities. Personal changes will benefit you. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Travel for business or pleasure. Avoid judging your surroundings too quickly. Uncertainties will be present. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Help those less fortunate. Avoid minor accidents by staying focused. Your partner could cost you dearly. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Don't lend or borrow money. Accomplish much with extra effort. Join worthwhile endeavours to meet new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Your attitude is rapidly changing. Avoid one-sided attractions. Co-workers may resist your instructions. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Your energy, ideas, and memory will aid accomplishments. Travel will bring about romance and adventure. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Finish lingering projects. New partnerships can emerge through organisations. Your points will be well-received by those in power. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Charm and generosity will bring friends and romance. Avoid delays by being courteous. Surround yourself with stimulating people. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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#DECOR

Modernise your dining area with these 2025 décor ideas

As the new year unfolds, many of us find ourselves browsing through the latest home-deco trends on Pinterest or design magazines. While you update your home according to the latest glitz, dining and kitchen furniture set-up may demand a little more than just a simple tweak. Due to the manifold activities taking place in this zone, extra attention is essential.

To make sure of a smooth flow for activities like food preparation, cooking, family gatherings, and dining, while maintaining the overall style of the house — delve into these up-and-coming trends in 2025 for a fresh kitchen-dining look!

Minimalistic open kitchen

The idea of merging the dining area with the kitchen has been around for quite some time. As many of us get comfortable with the concept, picking the appropriate furniture for an optimised placement can be tricky. Often, we go with a dining table set that obstructs the flow of the space. Other times, a disproportionate furniture set can reduce the space for storage cabinets, making the room appear grim and confined.

To avoid these pitfalls, select dining table sets with crisp-clean profiles that make the most of a limited space. Since open kitchens are visible from the dining area, prioritise using cabinetry with smooth surfaces and a streamlined design. Soft and neutral colour palettes — like sage white, eggshell cream or grey can make the area feel spacious and polished. To add style and functionality, incorporate a kitchen island with a marble or quartz surface. For the dining area, pick a table set with warm notes to ensure a homely and elegant space.

Rustic lounge-style dining

The earthy magic of wooden tones never fails to create a charming atmosphere — especially in the case of a dining-kitchen area, where family and friends often gather.

Earthy elements like terracotta pot plants or ceramic dishes can accentuate the wooden flavour and add timeless luxury to your room. Opt for modular furniture items with built-in storage for a well-organised appearance. Add plenty of indoor plants for a natural ambience and refreshing mood.

Semi-open breakfast bars

If you own a studio-type apartment with limited square footage, worry not! Semi-open kitchen-dining layouts can save space, while ensuring maximum function and beauty. Consider installing a glass partition or a low-height wall to maintain a visual connection with the dining. The countertop can be used for informal breakfast bars, casual works stations, and extra seating when the guests visit. Highlight the area with pendant lights or chandeliers for a warm and cosy ambience.

The return of formal dining space

The classic dining room styles are making a comeback, where a grand dining table set serves as the centrepiece of the area. Kitchen appliances, utensils and storage items are usually concealed and replaced with decorative showpieces, large artworks and accented feature walls. Do not shy away from adding personal touches and embracing eclectic aesthetics. Use geometric-shaped furniture set with layered textiles for a unified look in the dining kitchen area.

As the dining table set serves as the statement piece of the room, choosing a product with a high-end finish and cutting-edge materials is crucial.

To purchase quality furniture, you can check out Hatil, which is offering 5-10 per cent discounts — as well as a 24-month EMI at zero percent (in collaboration with Eastern Bank).

By Tasmiah Rahman
Photo: Courtesy