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EID mubarak!

PHOTO: LS ARCHIVE/SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

A celebration of heritage, hope, and togetherness

As we draw an end to the blessed days of Ramadan for yet another year, the anticipation for joyous Eid draws near.

This week Star Lifestyle is all about positivity around us. From the food that we may wish to serve on Eid day, the beautiful architecture of mosques you may choose to immerse in during the holiday as a tourist, to the story of a brilliant piece of Nakshi Kantha that mirrors society and our heritage and culture — our take is diverse.

We also focus on some of the recent strides we have made in architecture and the beacon of hope in our football

scene, a much-neglected avenue in the last few decades, through the adoption of new designs of jerseys for the team.

Embracing the spirit of Eid, let us cherish the beauty around us—be it in the rich flavours of our festive feasts, the timeless elegance of our mosques, or the artistry woven into our heritage. May this Eid bring renewed hope, inspiration, and a sense of togetherness that lasts beyond the celebrations.

Eid Mubarak!

— LS DESK

#PERSPECTIVE

The rituals that make Eid celebrations special

Whether you belong to the older generation or the younger one, you are surely familiar with that unmistakable feeling when you wake up on Eid morning. It's a unique blend of grogginess and excitement, where you are still half-asleep but also acutely aware that today is no ordinary day. There's a certain magic in the air, a quiet buzz that seeps into your consciousness even before you fully open your eyes.

The day usually starts with the faint sound of takbir echoing from the mosque, blending seamlessly with the chaos of the household. Women are already up, bustling in the kitchen, the aroma of warm shemai and pulao filling the air. While men may look for their tupi, hurrying to get to the Eidgah with children arguing about who gets to shower first.

In a broader sense, Eid in every household is sacred in their chaotic way.

The excitement of chand raat

"I remember as a child, I would barely sleep the night before Eid," laughs Ayesha Rahman, a schoolteacher. "The anticipation of wearing my new dress, eating all the delicious food, and most importantly, getting salami, made the night almost unbearable!"

Before Eid morning arrives, there is "chand raat", the night when the crescent moon is sighted, confirming the arrival of the much-awaited day. The moment the announcement is made, excitement spills into the streets, markets stay open late into the night, and families begin their final preparations.

In many households, henna application is a ritual. Young girls sit in a circle, taking turns as an elder or a professional artist decorates their hands with intricate floral patterns. The smell of fresh mehendi lingers in the air, a fragrance synonymous with Eid.

Remembering her sister who died a few years ago, Raisa recalls, "Chand raat was our night – she was always the one to apply my mehendi, drawing the most intricate patterns with such patience. I would sit still, watching her work. Now, every Eid, as I trace the designs on my own hands, I can almost hear her laughter. The colour fades, but the memories never do."

As the night stretches on, the excitement settles into a quiet anticipation. New clothes are carefully laid out, elders share stories of Eids gone by, and children struggle to sleep, dreaming of the festivities that await them.

Eid's joyful tune – O mon Romzaner oi rozar sheshe

"I have heard this song every Eid since I was a child," says Mizanur Rahman, a 45-year-old shopkeeper from Shahjadpur. "Even now, when I hear the first few lines, it brings back memories of running to the bazaar with my brothers and fetching groceries for my mother on chand raat."

Like Rahman, many of us may find the celebrations of Eid incomplete without the iconic song. The moment Ramadan ends and the first announcement of Eid is made, this song finds its way into homes and television screens, instantly filling the air with nostalgia and joy.

No matter how old this song might be, it has not lost its charm and the magic lies in its ability to remind people of past Eids, of childhood laughter, of loved ones who are no longer there, and at the same time, it builds anticipation for the joy that is yet to come.

The great Eid heist – Salami

If there is one thing that truly unites every child on Eid, it is the relentless pursuit of salami – the tradition of collecting crisp banknotes from elders with a well-rehearsed, innocent smile.

While the day begins with prayer and reflection, for the younger generation, Eid kicks off when they strategically position themselves near uncles, aunts, and grandparents, hands subtly extended, and ready for the grand payday.

"I still remember how my cousins and I had an unspoken competition – who could collect the most salami by the end of the day?" laughs Alvee, who is now in his 30s and lives in Sweden. "It was all about technique. A well-timed hug, a polite Eid Mubarak, and boom! Another note safely tucked away in our pockets."

The best part? The excitement doesn't fade with age. Even teenagers – who pretend to be too grown-up for it – still eagerly accept the folded salami with a sheepish grin. And then there are the elders who love the tradition just as much as the kids do.

"My grandchildren start hinting about salami days before Eid," chuckles Mahbuba Begum, a grandmother of two. "They sit beside me, all sweet and helpful, waiting for me to reach for my purse. It's adorable, really. And let's be honest, I enjoy giving it as much as they enjoy receiving it!"

While salami might be the highlight for many, the real treasure of Eid is the warmth it brings –the sound of children giggling as they count their earnings, the generosity of elders who give without hesitation, and the simple joy of seeing smiles stretch wide across faces, young and old.

'Eid without Ityadi feels incomplete'

"Every year, Ityadi brings something new, yet it still feels comfortingly familiar," says Ataur Rahman, a father of three. "It's like the polao on the Eid table – you know it's going to be there, and you wouldn't have it any other way. For me, Eid without Ityadi feels incomplete!"

For years, Ityadi has functioned as a cultural glue that connects generations – grandparents, parents, and children all sit together, laughing at the witty satirical sketches and enjoying the heartfelt human-interest stories.

The show's ability to blend humour with social awareness is what makes it stand out. Hanif Sanket masterfully addresses contemporary issues – whether it's corruption, cultural changes, or everyday struggles – with a mix of sarcasm and wisdom that resonates with viewers across all backgrounds.

"My father watches for the political satire, my mother loves the inspirational segments, and I just wait for the hilarious sketches," says Shakib, a 19-year-old from Dhaka. "There's something for everyone, and that's why it never gets old."

As the show ends and the credits roll, there is always a lingering warmth – a sense of satisfaction that another Eid has been celebrated well. Whether in the heart of Dhaka or at a quaint village, whether in a house full of guests or watching from abroad, Ityadi remains the one thing that brings Bangladeshis together on Eid night.

The changing traditions and the timeless essence of Eid

Over the years, the way people celebrate Eid has changed. In the past, handwritten Eid cards were exchanged between loved ones, while today, messages arrive in the form of texts and social media posts. Where once a visit to the Eid mela was the highlight of the day, now shopping malls and amusement parks draw crowds.

Yet, despite these changes, the essence of Eid remains untouched. It is still the day differences are set aside, when doors are open to guests, and the warmth of human connection outweighs all else.

In the end, every Eid is different, yet every Eid is the same – a beautiful reminder of love, faith, and togetherness.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed; Shahrear Kabir Heemel; Prabir Das

#CULTURE

Aarong unveils 44-foot kantha masterpiece by Samiul Alam

In a world driven by rapid industrialisation and mass production, the quiet persistence of handcrafted traditions stands as proof of resilience. One such tradition, Nakshi Kantha, has long been an intrinsic part of Bangladesh's cultural identity. However, few projects have elevated it to the scale and grandeur of MohaArongo: The Great Arena, an awe-inspiring 44-foot-long Nakshi Kantha installation, housed in Aarong's flagship store in Dhanmondi. Designed by Samiul Alam, this installation is not merely a piece of fabric but a living narrative of heritage, sustainability, and collective craftsmanship.

A reflection of Aarong's journey

At its core, MohaArongo encapsulates Aarong's extensive legacy. With a local supply chain encompassing over 75,000 artisans, including 30,000 working under the Ayesha Abed Foundation (AAF), Aarong has built a formidable ecosystem of craftsmanship across Bangladesh. Samiul Alam and his associate designer Nanziba sought to reflect the scale and impact of this journey through an installation that merges past, present, and future.

"We just tried to reflect on the gigantic force of Aarong's massive journey and the magical craft of its people," Alam explains. "Both the story and crafting of this Nakshi Kantha call back to the root, connecting artisans, their bond with nature, our ancestral existence, folklores, myths, heritage, and culture — all reliving in a new form, echoing a proud future."

Unlike traditional Nakshi Kantha, which is often a deeply personal endeavour, this installation is the result of 250 artisans working collectively over six months. The design evolved organically — what started as a printed layout on paper transformed with every touch of the artisans.

"MohaArongo embodies the excellence of collective energy in the force of creation," Alam says, adding, "Each artisan added their best skills and experiences into this seamless story."

To ensure that the authentic voices of artisans were preserved, the installation incorporated a blend of traditional and contemporary techniques including block print, tie-dye, screen print, wax batik, and shibori. These gave the piece textural depth and visual complexity.

Sustainability woven into the fabric

The installation is not just a celebration of craftsmanship; it is also a statement on sustainability. Crafted from upcycled materials, it repurposes tailor-cutting waste, end-of-roll fabrics, rejected sample pieces, beads, jewellery pieces, and most importantly, recyclable sarees.

"The origin and purpose of Nakshi Kantha itself is a sustainable idea," Alam notes. "Kantha is created from old sarees, made into a blanket of stories. It fills our sleep with dreams and gives us the strength to live those stories. The same goes for this kantha as well."

By incorporating repurposed textiles and traditional kantha stitches, the installation bridges the past practice of sustainability with the urgent need for eco-conscious craftsmanship today.

A tribute to artisans

One of the most striking elements of MohaArongo is its golden sunrise sky, adorned with the names of artisans. This design choice draws inspiration from Samiul's experience in Paris, where he encountered Le Mur Pour La Paix (Wall for Peace), inscribed with the word "peace" in 32 different languages.

"The idea truly bloomed when we found names stitched on traditional kanthas in Aarong's archive," he recalls. "Often, those who stitch the kantha write their names in one corner. Since this is a big kantha, and a lot of people contributed, we decided to put all of our names in the sunrise sky — to reflect hope, prosperity, and gratitude."

Another compelling detail is the embroidered portraits of artisans handing over the iconic Aarong bag. This honours the faces behind the craft, allowing their stories to be visually represented within the piece itself.

Preserving tradition in a globalised world

In an era where automation threatens to overshadow handcrafted traditions, installations like MohaArongo serve as a powerful reminder of the human touch in craft. Yet, as the world moves towards fast fashion and mechanised production, what role does Nakshi Kantha have in contemporary design?

"The stitches of Nakshi Kantha are not limited to just Nakshi Kantha anymore, which is a good thing," Alam believes. "It's time to expand further."

He advocates for a coexistence of preservation and innovation keeping traditional techniques alive, while allowing it to evolve in fashion and lifestyle. "As consumers, we must prioritise local crafts and techniques. That is how we keep this magic going. Growth will shine on our existence," he remarks.

Truly, standing before this 44-foot-long masterpiece, one cannot help but feel a deep-rooted connection to the past — a reminder that every stitch, every repurposed fabric, and every artisan's name is part of an ongoing story. A story that refuses to fade, that insists on being told, again and again, through the enduring art of Nakshi Kantha.

By Ayman Anika
Photos: Courtesy

Effortless Eid feasts

Quick and delicious recipes with Radhuni

Getting together with loved ones, celebrating, and, of course, indulging in delectable food are what Eid is all about. But there comes a time when you are trying to plan everything from last-minute errands, and family time, to visitors, which can prove to have your plate full, especially when you plan to start from scratch and put together a whole spread.

If you are in the mood for a hearty meal, Radhuni has you covered with options like Tehari, Fried Rice, Radhuni Biriyani, Kachchi, and Hyderabadi Biriyani Masala, among many more dishes. And Radhuni Falooda Mix — Mango/Vanilla Flavour is the most refreshing treat for individuals who want to finish things on a sweet note.

With Radhuni, you can enjoy all the Eid favourites with no stress — just authentic flavours and effortless cooking.

KACHCHI BIRIYANI

Ingredients

1 kg mutton (bone-in, cut into large pieces)
3 cups fragrant Chashi Aromatic Rice/ Basmati Rice
1 Pack Radhuni Kachchi Biriyani Masala
1½ cups yoghurt
2 large onions (sliced and fried until golden)
½ cup Radhuni sunflower oil
1 tsp salt (adjust to taste)
½ cup milk, infused with saffron
½ tsp kewra water

Method

Marinate the mutton with Radhuni Kachchi Biriyani Masala, yoghurt, salt, and half of the fried onions. Let it sit overnight or for at least 6 hours. Wash and soak the Chashi Aromatic Rice/Basmati Rice for 30 minutes.

In a deep pot, layer the marinated mutton at the bottom. Top with soaked rice. Add green chillies, saffron milk, and kewra water. Seal the pot with a tight-fitting lid and cook on low heat for 1½ to 2 hours. Serve hot, garnished with the remaining fried onions.

HYDERABADI BIRIYANI

Ingredients

1 kg chicken (cut into large pieces)
3 cups Chashi Aromatic Rice/Basmati Rice
2 tbsp Radhuni Hyderabadi Biriyani Masala
1 cup yoghurt
2 large onions (sliced and fried)
½ cup Radhuni Premium ghee
½ cup milk with saffron
½ tsp rose water
Salt to taste

Method

Marinate chicken with Radhuni Hyderabadi Biriyani Masala, and yoghurt for at least 2 hours. Boil the Chashi Aromatic Rice/ Basmati Rice until 70 per cent cooked. In a deep pot, layer the marinated chicken, followed by rice, fried onions, saffron milk, and rose water. Seal the pot and cook on low heat for 45 minutes. Serve hot with raita and salad.

MEJBANI BEEF CURRY

Star LIFE Style

The highlight of anyone's Eid meal may be biriyani, but there's no denying the comforting scent of Chittagong's signature dish — Mejbani Beef Curry — simmering away in the background. With Radhuni Mejbani Beef Curry Masala, you will not have to go on a wild goose chase for spices to achieve that original taste.

Ingredients
1 kg beef (cut into chunks)
1 pack Radhuni Mejbani Beef Curry Masala
1 tbsp Radhuni mustard oil
1 large onion (sliced)
2-3 dried red chillies
Salt to taste

Method
Heat mustard oil and sauté onions until golden. Toss in Radhuni Mejbani Beef Curry Masala, beef chunks, turmeric, and salt. Stir well. Add enough water to cover the meat and let it slow-cook for 2-3 hours. Serve with plain rice and a wedge of lemon.

KALA BHUNA

A dish so legendary that every Bangladeshi festival menu fights for a spot, Radhuni Kala Bhuna Masala makes recreating this classic at home a breeze. With its rich, dark gravy, and deeply caramelised beef, kala bhuna is a slow-cooked masterpiece that pairs beautifully with paratha, naan, or plain rice.

Ingredients
1 kg beef (cut into medium chunks)
1 Pack Radhuni Kala Bhuna Masala
1 tbsp Radhuni mustard oil
1 onion (thinly sliced)
2-3 dried red chillies
½ cup yoghurt
½ cup oil
Salt to taste
Fresh coriander (for garnish)
Fried onions (for garnish)

Method
Heat mustard oil in a deep pan. Fry the sliced onions until golden brown and crispy. Remove half for garnishing later. Mix in Radhuni Kala Bhuna Masala, and dried red chillies. Fry the spices well.

Add beef chunks and sear on high heat until browned. Add the yoghurt and stir thoroughly to coat the meat. Cook covered over low heat, stir often and add water as needed, for two to three hours. Cook until the meat is caramelised and the oil separates from the sauce.

Present hot alongside paratha or plain rice; adjust salt to taste; then garnish with fried onions and fresh coriander.

TEHARI

Ingredients
2 cups fragrant rice
500g beef (cubed)
1 pack of Radhuni Tehari Masala
½ cup oil
1 onion (sliced)
2 green chillies
Salt to taste

Method
Heat oil and fry onions until golden. Add beef. Mix in Radhuni Tehari Masala and cook until aromatic. Add washed rice, stir, then pour enough water to cook the rice. Simmer on low heat until everything is cooked through.

QUICK & TASTY FRIED RICE

Got leftover rice from yesterday? Perfect! Radhuni Fried Rice Seasoning Mix turns it into a restaurant-style delight with zero effort.

Ingredients
2 cups cooked rice (chilled)
1 tbsp Radhuni Fried Rice Seasoning Mix
1 egg (beaten)
½ cup mixed vegetables
1 tbsp oil

Method
Heat oil and scramble the egg. Add vegetables, and stir fry for 2 minutes. Toss in the rice and Radhuni Fried Rice Seasoning Mix. Stir well. Serve hot with a side of grilled chicken or prawns.

#CHECK IT OUT

RADHUNI FALOODA – MANGO BLISS IN A GLASS!

Nothing completes an Eid feast without some sweets, ranging from Custard Mix, Firni Mix, Jorda Mix and Kheer Mix — Radhuni has it all. But for this Eid, nothing will keep you cool like a glass of iced Radhuni Falooda Mix—Mango Flavor. After a hearty dinner, ending the night on a light and sweet note is the best thing you can do as it is creamy, fruity, and pleasantly decadent. This falooda will be a hit whether it is served by itself or with a dollop of ice cream on top.

Ingredients

1 packet Radhuni Falooda Mix – Mango Flavor
500ml chilled milk
½ cup soaked chia seeds
½ cup cooked vermicelli (optional, for extra texture)
1 scoop vanilla or mango ice cream (for topping)
1 tbsp chopped nuts (almonds, pistachios)
½ cup diced mango (optional, for garnish)

Method

Mix Radhuni Falooda Mix - Mango Flavor with cold milk in a big glass or jug, well until totally dissolved. Add sugar, if you so like. For more sweet and savoury texture, add cooked vermicelli (cold) and soaked chia seeds. Let it chill in the refrigerator for 15 to 20 minutes; then, pour into glasses. Top with a scoop of ice cream, chopped almonds, and sliced mango for additional decadency just before serving. Present right away and savour this rich, fruity treat!

By K Tanzeel Zaman

#TRAVEL

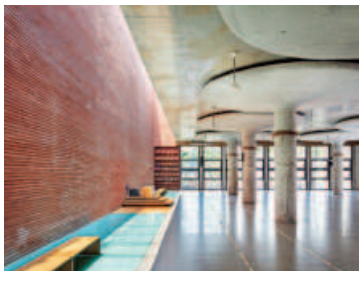
7 beautiful mosques in Bangladesh you must visit at least once!

Whether you are a history enthusiast who is drawn to the beauty of Islamic heritage or a curious traveller eager to dive into the spiritual realm, Bangladeshi mosques can offer you an enchanting experience. With the sheer grandeur, artistry and serene ambience, some of these places can surely take our breath away.

As the Eid vacation is right around the corner, we have curated a list of stunning mosques across the country that you must visit at least once!

Aman Mosque, Narayanganj

Nestled within the bustling backdrop of Narayanganj lies a hidden respite that offers tranquillity like no other —- Aman Mosque. The premises of this mosque are surrounded by sloped walls, creating a sunken courtyard vibe. Imagine walking into a prayer hall that feels like an underground sanctuary, secluding you from the chaotic surroundings.



Designed by Nakshabid Architects, this magical mosque was established in 2018. Ever since then, this place has become a beloved spot for the locals of all walks of life.

The cubical prayer hall and the soaring minaret of the mosque make a picturesque view. The walls are adorned with triangular punches, inviting sunlight to stream inside the praying zone creating a sublime interplay of light and shadow.

If you want to soak in this magical ambience — make sure to add Aman Mosque on your next trip to Narayanganj!

Bait-ur-Rayyan Mosque, Madaripur

For those of you who want to visit a modern mosque in the heart of rural Bangladesh, Bait-ur-Rayyan is the perfect pick for you. This charming single-storied prayer space is more than a mosque, it serves as a vibrant hub for the community, who gather here and engage in enlightening discussions.

Perched near the mighty Arial Kha River, the environment around the red-brick-mosque is immersed in rural beauty. Even by looking at the pictures, you can feel the magnetic allure. The sculptural minarets stand tall while the floating dome adds to the quintessential grandeur, inviting ample sunshine into the interior.

What sets it apart is its absence of heavy ornamentation, proving that a mosque can be equally captivating through simplicity and minimalism. Designed by Cubeinside Design in 2023, this structure has been recognised internationally, bagging the prestigious Architecture Masterprize Award.

Khan Muhammad Mridha Mosque, Dhaka

History lovers, prepare to be enchanted by the ever-so-elegant Khan Muhammad Mridha Mosque! This majestic masjid will surely take you back to the times when mosques were a statement of the mighty Mughal Empire.

The mystic staircase of this site takes you up to a sweeping plaza where time stands still. Tourists from different parts of the country including foreigners flock to this destination, to simply witness this architectural showstopper.

To dive into its timeless beauty, pay a visit to Old Dhaka. And while you are there, also stop at the nearby Lalbagh fort for an extra dose of Mughal splendour!

Miah Bari Mosque, Barishal

Miah Bari Mosque at Karapur, Barishal is a standout. Established in the 18th century, this structure is a perfect spot for history buffs. Legend has it that the mosque was built by Hayat Mahmud, who was a rebellious zamindar exiled on a foreign island. He built this remarkable landmark upon his return to Bengal.

The mosque exhibits three ornate domes and four minarets on both sides. The minarets are also a head-turner, with their floral motifs and intricate craftsmanship. This artistry is a showcase of the skills of Bengali artisans, bringing an aesthetic appeal to the countryside to this day.

Kusumba Mosque, Naogaon

Popularly known as the Black Gem of Bengal, the sleek-black look of Kusumba mosque is an underrated landmark from the Sultanate era. Six domes and rounded corners make up this monolithic structure while the walls are adorned with breath-taking artistry.

Unlike many mosques in Bengal, Kusumba mosque is surely an eye-catcher. With its unique appearance, the mosque adds to the mystery and spiritual depth for the worshippers. Made with sandstone, granite and marble this landmark is a magical testament to the royalty of the Sultanate king.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque, Azimpur, Dhaka

Situated in the historic neighbourhood of Azimpur, Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque is a state-of-the-art mosque in Dhaka.

Once you enter the mosque, an expansive terrace welcomes you in, offering a quiet respite in the ever-hustling city. A towering minaret and the view of Azimpur Graveyard are surely striking, transporting you to feeling about the higher power and this limited life of ours!

Designed by SHATOTTO Architecture for Green Living, this mosque has a lofty hall for female devotees, which is equally stunning as sunlight pours down through a circular cut-out on the ceiling.

If you are celebrating this Eid in Dhaka, Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque can elevate the experience of your morning Eid prayer!

Zebun Nessa Mosque, Ashulia

Recently declared as one of TIME's greatest places to visit, Zebun Nessa mosque is the epitome of contemporary mosques in Bangladesh. Arriving at the beautiful court with tall trees you cannot help but wonder how beautiful the curved wall of the pinked-mosque is.

This spiritual space was built to honour the memory of the late mother of an industrialist. The entire mosque compound was designed to give the staff a beautiful place of worship, which also serves as a social hub where people can rest or interact with each other.

One of the unforgettable features of this mosque is as you look towards the west, a tranquil water body appears through the arched opening. A translucent glass mihrab shimmers as the devotees immerse themselves in prayer.

This stunning landmark is the only masterpiece from Bangladesh to be honoured globally by TIME, so do not miss out on taking a trip to this one!

By Tasmiah Rahman
Photo: Asif Salman
(Bait-ur-Rayyan Mosque, Zebun Nessa Mosque); SHATOTTO Architecture for Green Living (Mayor Mohammad Hanif Jame Mosque)

#ARCHITECTURE

ZEBUN NESSA MOSQUE:

The first Bangladeshi landmark in TIME's World's Greatest Places

For the first time, a Bangladeshi architecture has earned a place on the list of TIME's World's Greatest Places 2025. The Zebun Nessa Mosque, designed by Saiqa Iqbal Meghna – Director and Partner of Studio Morphogenesis Ltd., who also serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at BRAC University – has been recognised for its ground-breaking design. Since the inception of the list in 2018, no Bangladeshi location has ever been featured, until now!

While speaking on the honour of being featured in TIME, Meghna shared, "The Zebun Nessa Mosque is the first place in Bangladesh to be featured in TIME World's Greatest Places. It feels incredibly rewarding to see a project from Bangladesh being noticed internationally without any external promotion from our side. The overwhelming appreciation from both national and global audiences has been humbling, and it strengthens my responsibility as an architect to continue creating meaningful spaces."

TIME's World's Greatest Places list recognises destinations that offer exceptional and transformative experiences. The Zebun Nessa Mosque is celebrated not only for its religious and spiritual significance but also for its architectural ingenuity. Meghna attributes its global recognition to its unique balance between tradition and modernity.

"The architectural and structural excellence of the mosque speaks for itself. It is a testament to how skilfully our builders and craftsmen can work together to achieve remarkable results," she elaborates.

This achievement draws international attention to Bangladesh's architectural potential, inviting scholars, designers, and global enthusiasts to witness the seamless integration of modernity with tradition. More importantly, it sets a precedent for local architects to embrace innovative yet culturally rooted design solutions.

Meghna's success is also a breakthrough for female architects in Bangladesh, paving the way for more women to take leadership roles in a traditionally male-dominated field. Her journey is an inspiration to aspiring architects, particularly women, proving that impactful design transcends boundaries.

Building on the principles of the Zebun Nessa Mosque, Meghna is already working on another socially impactful project. "I am currently designing a community space and day care centre for women garment workers inside the same industrial compound as the Zebun Nessa Mosque. This project adheres to the same principles of cultural sensitivity and innovation while experimenting with new, low-cost materials to ensure accessibility," she shares.

The Zebun Nessa Mosque has received widespread acclaim beyond its TIME recognition, solidifying its place in the global architectural landscape. Meghna was honoured as the Foreign Countries' Architect of the Year at the 34th JK Architect of the Year Awards, recognising her exceptional contributions to architecture.

Additionally, the mosque was shortlisted among the Top Five Civic Projects on DEZEEN, one of the world's leading online architecture platforms, and was also featured in ARCHDAILY as one of the Top Five Religious Projects, further cementing its significance as an architectural marvel.

As TIME shines a spotlight on this remarkable creation, the world acknowledges Bangladesh's architectural prowess. The Zebun Nessa Mosque is a shining example of how thoughtful design can create spaces that are both functional and transcendent, proving that architecture, at its best, has the power to inspire and uplift humanity.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Asif Salman

#PERSPECTIVE

HRIDOYE BANGLADESH

The story behind Bangladesh Football Team's new jersey

In Bangladesh, football has for a long time struggled to command the same mainstream recognition as cricket. However, with the inclusion of experienced players like Hamza Dewan Choudhury, the national team is generating renewed excitement, especially as they prepare for their highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers clash against India on 25 March. As momentum builds, the spotlight is not only on the players but also on what they wear.

The "Hridoye Bangladesh" jersey, designed by Tasmit Afiyat Arny, CEO of Stride Fashion Wear and Official Marketing Committee Member of the Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), is more than just sportswear. As the Marketing Professional and Creative Director at BFF, Arny has woven Bangladesh's heritage and football spirit into the design.

A design rooted in Bangladesh's heritage

One of the most striking aspects of the jersey is its water lily motif, a tribute to Bangladesh's national flower. The sharp-edged geometric pattern on the sleeves was crafted with intention. "The diamond motif within the water lily pattern is intentional — it symbolises strength and value, much like the dedication of our athletes," she explains.

The jersey also features river lines running through the design, a nod to Bangladesh's vast network of waterways.

"The river network is an integral part of our geography and identity. I wanted to make sure that connection was visually represented in the jersey," says Arny.

Even the placement of typography was carefully considered.

Instead of opting for a traditional map or emblem, Arny designed the word "Bangladesh" in custom typography on the back of the jersey. "Since most teams use a simple emblem, I wanted to create something more thoughtful and unique," she notes.

Breaking the red and green norm

A common critique of Bangladesh's football jerseys is that they should match the national flag's colours — red and green. However, Arny challenges this notion with a strong design rationale. "There are other countries in the world whose flags also feature red and green. If we strictly used these colours, we would not create a distinct identity," she explains.

Beyond national symbolism, there are technical considerations as well. Both red and green are warm colours, which can make a design look unbalanced if not used strategically. Arny took a more thoughtful approach.

"From a bird's-eye view, when players in red jerseys stand on the green football field, it naturally forms the Bangladeshi flag — red dots on a green background. This is a strong visual statement that many people overlook," she adds.

Moreover, a subtle yet powerful detail in the jersey is the "VictorY" design, with the "Y" symbolising raised arms in triumph. "It represents unity – players and the nation striving for a common goal," says Arny.

More than just a jersey

Made by DOUR, the jersey was initially designed with a textured, embossed water lily emblem, but due to production constraints, a printed fabric alternative was used.

"The fabric is sustainable, made from recycled materials. Its polyester base helps absorb sweat, which is essential in Bangladesh's humid climate," says Arny. While time constraints limited some features, she assures, "Future jerseys will incorporate more advanced material innovations."

While the Away Jersey is finalised, the Home Jersey, predominantly green, is still being refined, with the final photoshoot pending. "Each tournament features Home and Away jerseys. This time, our green Home Jersey is designed to be just as striking as the Away kit," she shares.

As Bangladesh football steps into a new era – welcoming international talents like Hamza Choudhury and preparing for crucial matches, may our national team's jersey serve as visual proof of our passion for the game. It carries the weight of our past while pushing towards a future where Bangladesh is not just playing but competing at the highest level.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Courtesy

#LIFEHACKS

SURPRISE YOUR MOTHER THIS EID: Thoughtful gifts beyond the ordinary

Let's face it, getting your mum a new saree is arguably the simplest and most obvious gift option you can give her for Eid. But why not try something different this year? Give her something genuinely unique that holds meaning.

Here we have listed some Eid gift ideas that will surely make her day.

A luxurious spa day

Day and night our mothers work tirelessly for us especially during Ramadan, fasting all day and still making sure we all have nutritious and delicious homemade iftar is not an easy task. This Eid, remind her to take a back seat and enjoy a relaxing day. Surprise her with a relaxing spa day at a salon and make her feel pampered.

It will be an experience that is much needed for her.

A kitchen gadget

Remember when we were children and during our visit to The International Trade fair, she would buy every crockery item she could get her hands on? We bet that passion has not gone yet.

Surprise her with an air fryer or a luxury coffee machine if she enjoys coffee. If she loves baking then a good quality electric mixer can be the perfect gift for her.

A personalised memory book

Sometimes the nicest gifts are the most personal. Make a memory book filled with images, handwritten notes, and heartfelt comments from loved ones. You can also include stories or recipes passed down through generations, creating a legacy she will treasure forever.

A culinary experience

Instead of giving something materialistic, why not treat her to a special experience? Take her to a fine-dining restaurant she has always wanted to try or book her a cooking or baking class where she can learn a new cuisine.

A weekend getaway

Nothing beats spending quality time together. Plan a surprise weekend retreat to a beautiful location where she can relax and unwind. Whether it's a quick staycation at a five-star hotel or a weekend getaway at Cox's Bazar, she will have an Eid to remember.

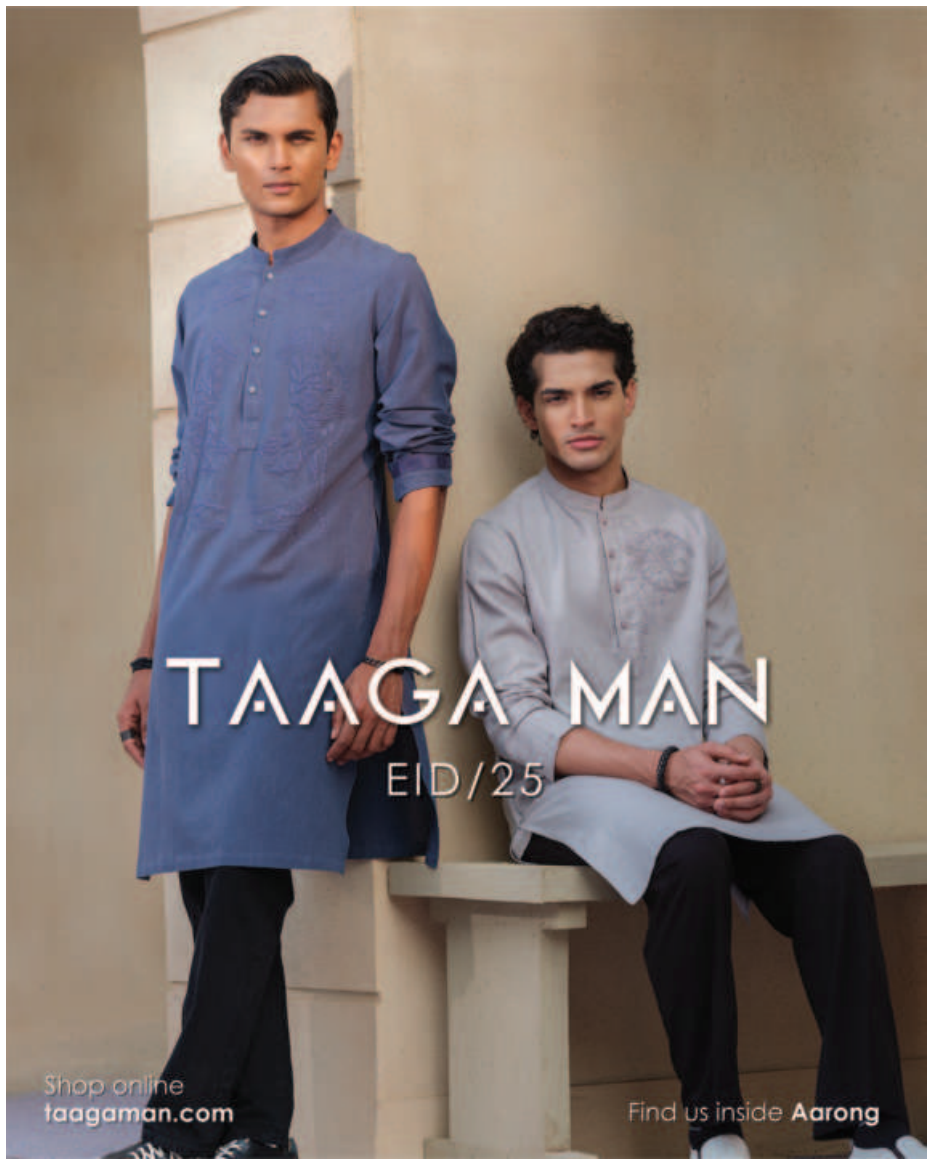
A beautifully curated gift basket

If you cannot decide on one gift, curate a beautiful basket with a mix of her favourite things. Fill it with gourmet chocolates, organic honey, premium teas, scented candles, and a heartfelt handwritten note to make it extra special.

Quality tea set

If your mum loves tea, a beautifully designed tea set filled with high-quality loose-leaf teas would be an excellent gift. Choose a set with beautiful porcelain or ceramic designs to add a unique touch.

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal
Photo: Collected



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#DECOR

Bringing Eid festivities home with a gorgeous decor

A well-thought-out space ensures that your guests feel comfortable, your home exudes understated luxury, and the spirit of Eid is celebrated in a way that is both elegant and memorable. This year, the trend is about blending minimalism with festive accents by choosing subtle yet striking décor that enhances the ambience without overwhelming it.

A well-balanced look for the room begins with the right furniture. A sleek, modern sofa in neutral tones provides the perfect foundation for a refined aesthetic. If you are looking to upgrade your furniture, consider investing in quality pieces that blend comfort with style. Many trusted brands now offer EMI options, making it easier to furnish your home without placing a financial strain. Whether it's a plush armchair, a statement coffee table, or a chic console, selecting timeless furniture ensures your space remains stylish beyond the festivities.

Wall decor does not exactly start and end with the wall colours and a few

photos hanging. Instead of cluttering the walls with multiple small decorations, opt for one or two statement pieces that command attention.

Elegant calligraphy in metallic gold or deep green hues can add a touch of cultural sophistication, while fabric tapestries in rich jewel tones bring texture and depth to the space.

If you prefer a more contemporary touch, a large abstract painting in muted colours can create a calming yet celebratory ambience. A statement mirror with an intricately designed frame is another excellent choice — it reflects light beautifully, making the room feel more spacious and luminous.

A golden lantern placed on the coffee table, a chic glass bowl filled with fairy lights, or a ceramic vase with dried flowers in warm hues instantly elevate the space. Candles in soft scents like oud, jasmine, or vanilla can enhance the sensory experience, making your living room feel warm and inviting.

Fresh flowers are a timeless choice for Eid décor, bringing a natural vibrancy that complements your Eid aesthetic. Soft-toned roses or orchids add a refined elegance to the space. Zarberas in bright colours are also a popular choice. If fresh flowers feel too high-maintenance, high-quality faux blooms arranged in a sleek vase offer the same visual appeal with more longevity.

The living room's centre-table serves as a focal point, and styling it with thoughtful elements can make a significant impact. A mix of textures and materials works best; combining metallic trays with wooden accents or pairing glass elements with soft fabrics creates visual interest. For a more contemporary approach, stack a few stylish coffee table books and top them with a ceramic or marble piece for understated elegance.

Beyond decorative elements, the functional aspects of your living room should also cater to comfort and hospitality. A soft area rug in neutral or warm tones along with a few throw cushions ties the room together.

Instead of harsh overhead lights, opt for layered lighting with warm-toned lamps, wall sconces, or decorative fairy lights to create a soft, special glow for Eid. A strategically placed floor lamp near the seating area or a stylish table lamp on a console table can add warmth to the space while maintaining a refined aesthetic.

Ultimately, Eid decor does not have to be extravagant to be impactful. By embracing a refined approach that combines modern minimalism with subtle festive touches, you can create a living room that feels warm, sophisticated, and effortlessly inviting.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Courtesy