

## #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."

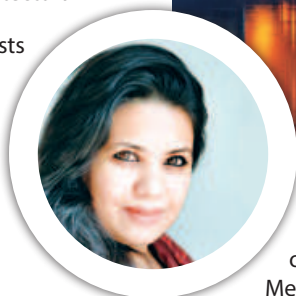
TIME's World's Greatest Places list recognises destinations that offer exceptional and transformative experiences. The Zebun Nessa Mosque

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**

