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Saree season in BLOOM

PAPPU'S ART SCHOOL FOR ALL P3
RICKSHAW ART FOR EVERYONE
ABSTRACTION OF CLOTHES P4
WEARABLE ART
FLORAL ALL THE WAY P8-9
TRENDY SUMMER SAREES

PHOTO: ADNAN RAHMAN
MODEL: PROMA
FASHION DIRECTION & STYLING: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA
WARDROBE: TANGAIL SHAREE KUTIR (TSK)
JEWELLERY: ZEVER BY AROHYE
MAKEUP: SUMON RAHAT
HAIR: PROBINA

#PERSPECTIVE

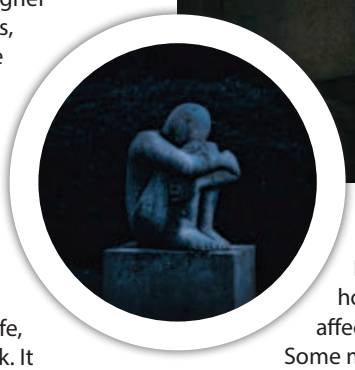
Coping with grief: How a nation heals after a tragedy

The shock came mid-afternoon on an ordinary Monday, and for countless families in Dhaka, 21 July became unforgettable. A Bangladesh Air Force F-7 BGI aircraft crashed into Milestone School and College in Uttara, killing students, teachers, and the pilot.

The tragedy struck not just a school but the collective heart of a nation. You didn't have to be a parent at Milestone to feel your breath catch. As the headlines unfolded, so did a wave of shared sorrow. Grief, suddenly, was everywhere. It was not just a personal experience, but a public one.

And for many, it reopened older wounds. Losses long buried. Questions never asked.

But how do we cope when grief arrives uninvited, without rules, timelines, or logic? How do we move forward, not just as individuals but as families, as communities, as a country?



Grief is not a straight line

We are often taught that grief comes in five neat stages: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, acceptance. However, in real life, it's far messier. Grief loops back. It quiets down only to return months or even years later.

Dr. Helal Uddin Ahmed, Professor of Child, Adolescent, and Family Psychiatry, explains that a "normal grief reaction" can last 6 to 8 weeks. "For example," he notes, "it's natural that school students will be on edge for a couple of weeks now. In fact, the entire nation is grieving. Every small mishap may trigger panic."

When those feelings persist longer, or begin to affect someone's ability to function, Acute Stress Disorder or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) may set in. That's when professional help becomes not just helpful, but essential.

Children grieve too

It's easy to overlook how deeply children are affected after a tragedy. Some may cry, others withdraw. Some might act out in ways that feel confusing to adults, but these behaviours are often a child's only way of expressing pain.

Ahmed cautions against dismissing their emotions with phrases like "It didn't happen to you" or "Just sleep it off." Instead, he urges adults to talk to children honestly, using age-appropriate language, and to allow space for questions, even uncomfortable ones.

For younger children, grief often comes out in play or drawing. Teenagers might show it through irritability, poor concentration, or guilt. What they need most is reassurance that their feelings are valid and that grief doesn't make them weak or strange.

"We live in a culture where we don't talk about the dead," he reflects. "That silence makes grief heavier, especially for children."

Adults are not immune

Adults, too, are often expected to "stay strong," especially in front of children or family. We are encouraged to move on, stay busy, and focus on the positive. However, unprocessed grief finds its own ways to surface through anxiety, fatigue, emotional numbness, or sudden bursts of sadness we cannot explain.

Healing, Dr Helal Ahmed stresses, doesn't mean forgetting. It means making space: for memories, for mourning, for the gradual return to life. It may mean letting go of the idea that time heals all wounds. Some losses stay with us, but they become part of who we are, not barriers to who we can become.

The grief we carry

Some of the hardest conversations about loss are the ones that never happen, especially within families. In many homes, grief becomes the quiet shadow in the corner of the room. No one speaks of the person who's gone. Everyone tries not to make it worse.

But silence can be just as painful as the grief itself. Saying a name, recalling a memory, admitting that something still hurts — these acts can become moments of connection, especially for children who may be too afraid to speak first.

Whether it's through prayer, photos, storytelling, or simple rituals, what matters most is the willingness to acknowledge the loss. To make space for grief without judgment.

The journey towards healing

Although modern life often isolates us, community still holds power, especially in times of collective pain. True healing happens not just in therapy rooms, but in neighbourhoods, classrooms, and workplaces that offer space for softness.

After the Milestone tragedy, grief didn't just ripple through families — it struck at our sense of safety. It exposed how fragile our mental health systems still are, and how urgently we need a culture that treats psychological wounds with the same care as physical ones.

That means destigmatising therapy. Normalising conversations around fear, sadness, and guilt. And understanding that it's okay to not be okay — for both children and adults.

Healing is not linear. It doesn't happen overnight. However, it does begin — in presence. In compassion. In the radical act of listening to ourselves and each other.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Collected

“Pappu’s Art School for All” brings rickshaw painting to everyone

In the heart of Old Dhaka, where narrow streets carry the echoes of history and the city breathes through its rickshaw wheels, a quiet revolution in art education is taking place. It does not come from a university or a gallery. It comes from paint-stained hands, tin rooftops, and the stubborn belief that art belongs to everyone.

“Pappu’s Art School for All” is a grassroots initiative offering free and inclusive training in the traditional craft of rickshaw painting — a vibrant, uniquely Bangladeshi art form. The school operates out of 38 Hossaini Dalan Road in Chawkbazar and is already welcoming students every Friday and Saturday from 3 PM to 5 PM, turning the walls of Old Dhaka into living canvases of hope.

The goal? To preserve a fading cultural form while empowering underprivileged youth, differently-abled individuals, and anyone with the desire to learn, regardless of age, gender, or income.

More than art

Founder Mohammad Hanif Pappu knows what it means to dream without resources. A self-taught artist, he grew up watching the colours of rickshaws light up the streets of Dhaka.

“Our youth are wasting away in gossip and bad company,” Pappu shares. “I want them to fall in love with colour. To be addicted to a clean canvas instead of something destructive.”

With this mission, he started the school not for profit, but for purpose. His dream extends beyond the boundaries of Dhaka: “One day, I want to take this school to other countries — to show the world what our people can create when given a brush and a little hope.”

The classes are open to all, but are completely free for those who cannot afford them. That includes children from low-income families, people with disabilities, and those often excluded from the formal education system.

“Some are passionate but poor. Some are disabled but dream big,” Pappu says. “If I can help even a few of them find purpose, then my life has meaning.”

Founder Mohammad Hanif Pappu and co-founder, Md Monir Hossain.

A community effort

This is not a one-man show. The initiative is powered by community artists, many of whom have long been involved in rickshaw and cinema banner painting.

Among them are veteran names like Rafiqul Islam, Solaiman, Mohammad Shipon, Md Humayun, Abdur Rob, Abdul Karim, and Md Dulal — who now serve as mentors, passing their skills down to a new generation.

Photographer Deep Loh is also documenting this journey, preserving each moment in frame.

The school officially launched on 1 August 2025, with a small but passionate gathering. Guests included Mahmud Hossain Khan, a Canada-based businessman, and Tanjida Mousumi, a journalist also residing in Canada.

“Their presence gave us courage,” says co-founder Md Monir Hossain, who has worked alongside Pappu since the early planning stages. “It showed us that even from abroad, people care about our heritage.”

Monir adds, “Dhaka is known as the city of rickshaws — this art was born here. We want to ensure it lives on through everyone, not just a few. That’s why this school is for all: children, the elderly, students, and professionals. Everyone.”

Looking forward

While the school currently operates on limited resources, Pappu and his team remain hopeful. “If we get help from government bodies, NGOs, or even the European Union, we could expand this,” he says. “I don’t want anything for myself. I just want to keep working with the youth. Maybe through them, I’ll live on in their brushstrokes.”

At a time when tradition is increasingly replaced by trends and machines, Pappu’s Art School for All stands as a reminder: art is not just for the privileged. It’s for anyone willing to learn, and anyone who still believes that a splash of colour can change a life.

And in a quiet corner of Chawkbazar, it already is.

For more information, visit: https://www.facebook.com/share/1NPEjaTV9f/

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Courtesy

WHEN ART WALKS AMONG US

A collaboration between Manas and Bipasha Hayat

It is not often that fashion designers collaborate with artists to create wearable art, but when Faiza Ahmed, of Manas fame, worked with Bipasha Hayat, something magical came into being. She has woven conceptual art form into the folds of high fashion, creating a series of sarees that speak a new language and move our thoughts. In her latest work, "Cast My Vote for Socrates' Acquittal", the two have made a successful collaboration, and it seems that in very simple terms, Ahmed dares to ask, "What if art didn't just hang on walls, but walked among us?"

Inspired by reflection

For over 15 years, Manas, as a brand, has been building bridges between fashion and fine arts. She has brought artworks by giants of the Bangladeshi art world like Zainul Abedin and Quamrul Hassan, and reimagined iconic imageries onto wearable forms.

The inspiration for the latest series comes from the celebrated conceptual artwork by Bipasha Hayat, which was done for the project FUTURE OF HOPE, during the upheaval of the COVID-19 pandemic, with the support of Durjoy Bangladesh Foundation.

At that time, the death of George Floyd in the USA made headline news, and Hayat saw the mass agitation take form in front of her through the window of her Brooklyn apartment. She researched and found that both Floyd and Socrates shared the same fate — a remarkable similarity, as both their deaths were caused by human rage. It raised questions about equality and freedom in the artist's mind.

Based on that feeling, Hayat felt an urge to represent that connection in her multidimensional artwork, and the recent collaboration is, in reality, an extrapolation of that very thought.

Faiza Ahmed shared, "Art is not always a visual piece, or a matter of aesthetics. It often speaks the inner thoughts of the artists. And Manas always strives to find that link between artists and their creations.

"I have worked with images from Bipasha Hayat's paintings and presented them on sarees. Along with lines from Bipasha Hayat herself with her signature, there is a quote in Italian by a celebrated art historian and educator, Giovanna Brambilla, who found out about Hayat's work and included it in her recent book, where she talked about this particular work."

Ahmed added, "People can wear it as an extensive stonework and also a saree with calligraphy."

Rooted in mutual respect

Bipasha Hayat expressed her deep admiration for Faiza Ahmed's work, which is a result of research and keen observation.

She said, "Working with Faiza has been a wonderful journey. For years, Faiza Ahmed has painstakingly brought art and artists onto her subject, which is designing clothes, and I thank her for this endeavour and the attempt to bring fine art in wearable form. However, what is more important is that bringing fine art aesthetics to the common man in the best possible way, and Faiza Ahmed deserves kudos for all the research, knowledge and passion for doing that and most of all for the acknowledgement of my work".

A soulful launch

On the evening of 21 July 2025, the collaborative effort of Manas and Bipasha Hayat was inaugurated through a private launch, where Durjoy Rahman, founder of DBF, was also present. It was a soulful evening wrapped in meaning, creativity, and respect for art and artists.

In a world increasingly driven by mass replication, this collaboration stands apart for its depth and deliberateness. It reminds us that fashion can be more than beautiful — it can be soulful. And perhaps that is the quiet triumph of the Faiza Ahmed and Bipasha Hayat collection.

By Mannan Mashhur Zarif
Photo: Manas

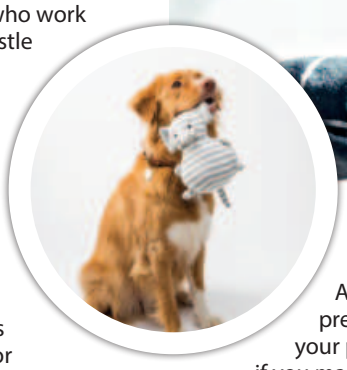
#LIFEHACKS

Things to consider before getting a pet

Back when you were children and used to plead with your parents for a pet, the desire rose merely out of affection and the necessity for a companion. In reality, such a life-changing decision should be considered with much more attention and time. After all, you do not want to rehouse your pet after one month or abandon it on the streets.

Managing time for pets

Time, the most valuable asset of our lives, is limited, and most people nowadays can barely afford some time for themselves, let alone a puppy. For people who work a 9-to-5 job and have a side hustle afterwards, having a pet might not be the best option. Low-maintenance pet animals like fish need less time for care, but the more common ones like cats and dogs need you to accompany them.



Alternative caregiver

Let's be honest, it is not always practically possible to take pets everywhere, be it on vacation or going to a relative's house who is not a fan of furry creatures. If you are someone who travels a lot, you need someone, preferably someone well-experienced, who can look after your pet in your absence.

Pet hotels and day care centres seem to be good options, but before you make up your mind on those, do check the quality and environment of such places.

Health and hygiene issues

As most diseases can be prevented by vaccinating your pets, you are not at risk if you maintain good hygiene. If you are unfortunate to be allergic to your pets, have the mental preparation to take medications and follow proper guidelines to make sure that neither you nor your pet's health is compromised.

Pet expenses

It's like setting up a whole new budget on its own that starts from buying food to clinical visits and grooming all down the list, which also includes some adorable accessories your heart begs you to buy for your cute companions. If you yourself have not attained financial stability, you should wait a few more years and reconsider the decision. We know how much you love cats, but sometimes you just have to show your affection by choosing what would be best for the pet's life.

Your patience level

A pet cat might not be the right one for you if you cannot tolerate the occasional scratch from them, and as for dogs, you need to choose the proper breed if you are likely to get frustrated with cleaning their drool. Everyone adores puppies rolling in mud, having the best time of their lives, but not everyone is ready to clean up the pup afterwards.

Acceptance by family and neighbours

If you have quite a lot of pet haters in your building, owning a pet might not be the right fit for you. Trust me, if your neighbours are not nice enough, they will point out every minor inconvenience and target that at your pet. Not to mention your relatives, whose only concern would be why you give more attention to your furry companion than to your life.

Safe environment

Our homes contain many chemicals and food items that can be toxic to animals. Hence, you always need to keep an eye on your feline friend so that it does not consume that piece of chocolate you saved for yourself.

Nowadays, with the growing number of instances of animal brutality happening, a secure environment must be ensured for your pet. A pet animal cannot speak for their, unlike humans, and as a pet owner, you must make sure it feels safe and sound 24/7.

Now that you have the full checklist for pet ownership, go ahead and tick every box before welcoming your furry friend!

By Labiba Tasnim
Photo: Collected

Rethinking hair fall and how to beat it

Hair fall rarely arrives as a headline. There's no grand announcement — just a few more strands on the towel each day. Perhaps a widening hair part in the mirror. And as the strands thin out, the questions grow louder: Why is this happening? Can it be stopped?

The truth is, hair fall is often less about vanity and more about well-being. It's a barometer for what's happening beneath the surface.

What really causes hair fall?

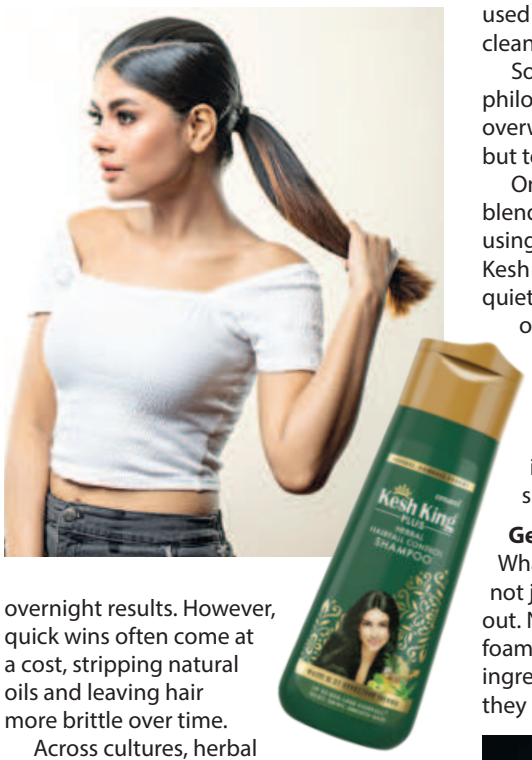
Hair follows a natural rhythm — a cycle of growth, rest, and renewal. It's perfectly normal to shed 50 to 100 strands a day. The concern begins when the growth slows down, but the falling does not.

In today's fast-paced world, the reasons are rarely singular. They may include scalp congestion caused by dust and product buildup, poor circulation, nutrient deficiencies, and environmental stressors such as heat, humidity, or pollution. Add to that irregular sleep, bad food habits, and the daily rush that leaves little room for self-care, and the impact starts to show.

Even the healthiest hair cannot thrive if the scalp is under strain. Greasiness, dullness, and even odour are signs that something's off.

The scalp needs its own kind of care

What the scalp needs is not just a cleanse, but a reset. Something that does not just wash away buildup, but restores balance. Many turn to the usual fixes like strong shampoos that promise instant volume or



overnight results. However, quick wins often come at a cost, stripping natural oils and leaving hair more brittle over time.

Across cultures, herbal remedies have long been trusted to restore strength to the scalp. The idea is simple: ingredients that have stood the test of time, blended not for scent or texture alone, but for their therapeutic properties.

There is aloe vera to hydrate, amla to nourish, neem to purify, hibiscus to thicken, and Brahmi to calm. These herbs, when used in the right combinations, do not just clean, they heal.

Some brands have embraced this philosophy quietly, choosing not to overwhelm consumers with flashy promises but to focus on real results.

One such name is Kesh King. With a blend of 21 traditional herbs and processed using a slow, oil-based extraction method, Kesh King Herbal Hair Fall Expert is made to quietly gain a loyal following for its impact on hair fall caused by breakage.

The formula works more than just stopping hair fall; it breathes life back into tired strands. Over time, hair begins to feel like itself again. You instinctively reach to give it a gentle shake, rather than hide in a bun.

Gentle, but effective

What sets a thoughtful shampoo apart is not just what it contains, but what it leaves out. No harsh parabens and no aggressive foaming agents, just plant-based ingredients with a purpose, chosen for how they interact with the scalp.

Pairing such a shampoo with a light herbal oil massage once or twice a week can help improve blood circulation, reduce scalp inflammation, and create a healthy environment for new growth. Over time, this gentle routine can make all the difference.

Hair, like you, needs time

There's no instant fix for hair fall. However, there is power in choosing products that align with your body's natural rhythms.

Battling hair fall does not have to mean choosing between harsh chemicals and empty promises. A more sustainable, thoughtful approach lies in going back to the basics: cleansing regularly, maintaining scalp health, and choosing products made with intention.

That's why more people are turning to herbal solutions like Kesh King Herbal Hair Fall Control shampoo, made with time-tested ingredients that not only remove dirt but nourish the scalp and strengthen the roots. With continued use, they help reduce hair fall up to 80 per cent caused by breakage and bring hair back to an elevated state that looks shiny and smooth, and feels healthy.

In a world full of quick fixes, sometimes the most effective solutions are the ones grounded in patience, care, and the quiet power of nature.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed, Courtesy

A DREAM IN SILK
Berger's Wedding Glamshoot Takes Love to the Maldives

Star LIFE Style

FOR FIVE LUCKY COUPLES FROM ACROSS

Bangladesh, Valentine's Day this year came wrapped in soft sea breezes, white sands, and silk-draped memories. The Berger Luxury Silk Wedding Glamshoot was a celebration of love, captured in its most glamorous, effortless form.

This initiative brought together a beautiful spectrum of relationships, giving them a second chance at the dream photo shoot many couples only wish for. And the backdrop? The breathtaking blue of the Maldives.

THE IDEA BEHIND THE GLAMOUR

"Berger Luxury Silk is our most premium brand," shared Amrin Chowdhury, Brand Specialist at Berger Paints Bangladesh. "We relaunched it with Bidya Sinha Mim to reroute the brand's tone — more glamour, more storytelling."

Berger is no stranger to wedding-centric campaigns.

"*Smritir Angina* was one of our most memorable ones — where celebrities like Jaya Ahsan would crash weddings," she explained. "But this time, we wanted all the focus to be on the couple. Many people missed out on their dream photo shoot during their wedding or honeymoon for various reasons. This was all about their second chance."

The call was simple: share a glamour shot as a couple, either by posting on Facebook and sharing the link through Berger's inbox, or uploading directly to a dedicated microsite. Hundreds applied.

THE SELECTION: FROM ONLINE POSTS TO THE MALDIVES

From hundreds of submissions, 30 couples were shortlisted by Berger's creative agency, Creato BD, under the direction of industry Veteran Rashid Khan — whose name spans iconic campaigns like CloseUp 1 and Lux Channel I Superstar. The glam department was led by Afroza Parveen, owner of RED beauty salon, and actress and host, Samia Afreen.

"We didn't do this campaign just to be different," he said. "We did it because this is what these stories deserved. The photo shoot was important, yes, but so were the real memories, the real emotions behind them. Berger was exceptionally brave in trusting this vision."

The top 15 couples were invited to an event at Six Seasons Hotel at the end of January. It was an ice-breaking session, with a small shoot to understand each couple's dynamic. The final five were selected by a grand jury: actress Bidya Sinha Mim, musician Partho Barua, and filmmaker Amitabh Reza.The journey, filled with stunning visuals and personal moments, later received a grand premiere at Star Cineplex, Centre Point, where the entire campaign was celebrated with flair.

"Selecting the top 5 from the 15 was a wild ride," Mim laughed. "We genuinely loved every single couple. And this campaign felt like a story captured in time. Honestly, I've told my husband, I loved this more than our own honeymoon in the Maldives!"

On 12 February, the five couples flew to the Maldives with the Berger team, the three judges, and the creative crew. They spent Valentine's Day there, returning with golden tans, professional photographs, and stories to tell.

THE COUPLES BEHIND THE MAGIC

Hasan Kobir, an artist, and Motmaina Moni, a dancer, got married in 2022. "Hasan shared the campaign post with me, and we submitted our photo," Moni said. "Honestly, I had a feeling we might get picked!"

Hasan laughed, "The top was to see how comfortable and compatible we were on camera. I think we're kind of photogenic that way." Both agreed it was the most stress-free and glamorous experience they've had as a couple.

David Anselm Adhikari and Twinkle Bernadett Rodriques were barely two months into their marriage when they were selected. "We're still in our honeymoon phase," said Twinkle, an analyst at Standard Chartered Bank. "And this felt like the perfect extension of that."

Twinkle was refreshingly candid about what many assume of such campaigns: "You often hear these things are fixed or given through inside references. That clearly wasn't the case here. It was incredibly luxurious and glamorous — something many people wouldn't even imagine having access to."

Her husband, David, added, "We had our honeymoon in Thailand. But we both agreed that the Berger trip was more fun."

Their love story, too, was a pleasant surprise: distant acquaintances since childhood, brought together by a coincidental photo at a birthday party, and a well-timed comment from a relative who insisted they "looked good together." Six months later, they were married.

Then there were couples like Md Maruf Hossain, Architect and Assistant Professor, Architecture Department of North South University, with his better half, Tahsina Afrin Sharmin, Director (P&O), Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Married for 16 years, their

submission stood out for its quiet grace. "We submitted one of our old wedding photos — it's still the most precious to us," said Tahsina.

Maruf, who was abroad for his PhD thesis defence during the top 15 selection, couldn't attend the session. But Tahsina's confidence, and the couple's treasure trove of travel memories captured over 16 years, made an impression. "When it has Berger's name associated, we thought — this will be trustworthy," Tahsina added.

A BRAND, REIMAGINED

Rupali Chowdhury, Managing Director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, sees the campaign as more than just marketing. "The credit goes to my marketing team. Berger has always been about lifestyle, about memories," she said.

"You may wonder — how does luxury tie into paint? But it's not the colour on the wall that matters most — it's the memories you create within those walls. That's what makes it luxurious," she added.

Afzal Hossain, one of the legendary actors, directors, writers and ad filmmakers of Bangladesh's creative world, was moved by the campaign's emotional core. "This was very new, very out-of-the-box," he said. "At a time when reels have replaced novels, we forget to cherish the poetic beauty of relationships. This reminded us to pause, to hold onto what matters."

The photo shoot in the Maldives, though visually stunning, was only one layer of the campaign. It was the laughter between takes, the excitement of choosing outfits, the quiet, shared glances between couples with years of history behind them. "I've struck up a friendship with all these couples," Bidya Sinha Mim said. "It was just so much fun."

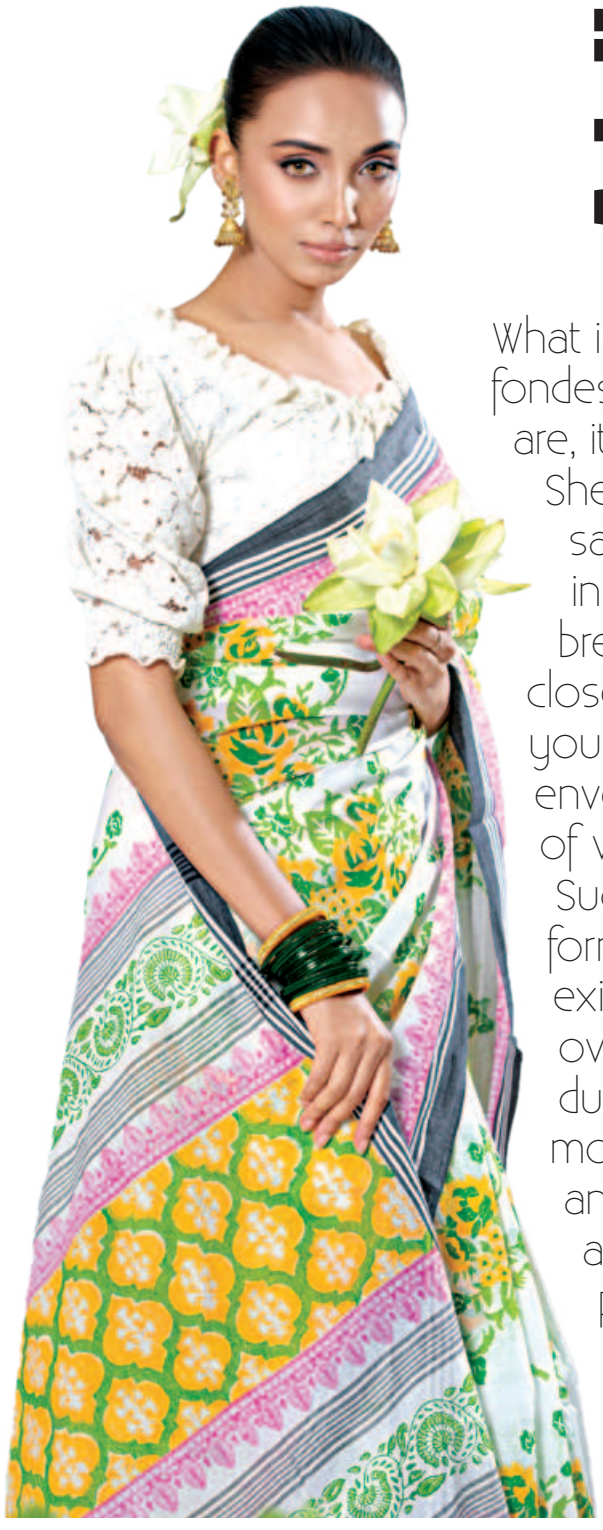
The campaign may be over, but the stories are just beginning to unfold. All episodes will be aired on Deepto TV and streaming on Deepto Play on August 8th, 15th, and 22nd — Fridays at 9:30 PM — giving viewers across the country a chance to witness the magic themselves. From a second-chance honeymoon to a well-earned celebration of years gone by, the Berger Luxury Silk Wedding Glamshoot is proof that love, like paint, only becomes richer with time.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Courtesy
Essentials -
To watch the programme, keep an eye on Deepto TV, Deepto Play, or Deepto YT on 15 and 22 August at 9.30 PM.

#FASHION & BEAUTY

FLORAL SAREES

A tribute to mothers, memories, and style



What is your earliest, fondest memory? Chances are, it is of your mother. She, lovely in her soft floral saree, her hair flowing in the gentle autumn breeze, holding you close and smiling at you, her sweet perfume enveloping you in a haze of warmth and affection. Such core memories form the basis of our existence, holding us over in moments of duress, knowing that our mothers' love is absolute and infinite. Everything about her is lovely and precious, and the way she dresses shapes our sense of fashion in the best way possible.

There's something inherently romantic about flowers in all shapes and forms that makes the wearer look fresh and elegant, and beholders are mesmerised by the beauty of the wearer right away!

Floral pieces are a classic in parts of the world where women predominantly preferred the six-yard garb as their attire of choice, even just a decade or two ago. Flowers have been an endless source of inspiration for designers everywhere, especially for sarees, which are a quintessentially feminine attire. Rendered in soft chiffon, dreamy georgettes and comfortable cottons, floral pieces are on an aesthetic league of their own.

We love this attirewith our whole heart, and floral ones are at the very helm of it all. A white cotton number with large pink roses block printed on it is perfect for lunches in summer, or a dawat at a friend's place.

A muslin piece printed with periwinkle rose and hydrangea blooms, blousy and bouncy, will turn heads at the next adda session with your girlfriends! Soft and subtle, with its subtle sprinkling of zari booti, this will add stardust to this elegant outfit.

For colour-loving ladies, a yellow block-printed number with a vivid blue border is the perfect choice. Rendered against a creamy white body, yellow flowers pop brightly, and the blue paar adds to the vibrancy!

Those who desire monochromes, tone-on-tone floral pieces are a great choice. An ivory drape with a soft sprinkling of tiny red and white daisies is perfect for a day at the office, followed by tea time with some special people.

Another similar option is a parrot green outfit with canary yellow flowers. It is just the dress one would want to wear to a cheerful gathering of family and friends, something we Bengalis love to indulge in!

Floral sarees are great for any occasion, really; accessories with matching simple jewellery and flowers in your hair and voila!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan
Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model: Proma
Fashion Direction & Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Wardrobe: Tangail Sharee Kutir
Jewellery: ZEVER by Arohye
Makeup: Sumon Rahat
Hair: Probina

EDISON REAL ESTATE
Redefining Happiness

Sharing a principal proposition in mind, 'Redefining Happiness' Edison Real Estate has introduced several impactful initiatives in product design, construction and quality control to deliver promised lifestyle residence to its customers in timely fashion and achieve customer satisfaction. Their recently completed creations reflect integrity of their brand promise.

PHC Piling: Reducing maintenance concerns for homeowners
This nascent developer has used Precast High Strength Concrete (PHC) piles in 9 projects since 2024. This class of plie engineered for complete structural safety, which provide superior load-bearing capacity, durability long-term resilience. The 3rd terminal of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Matarbari and Banshkhali Power plant are among notable national projects being erected using this advanced technology.

Multilayer and Multi-Stakeholder Quality Control
The QC processes: pre-construction quality check, on-site quality monitoring, and post-construction validation are ensured in standard operating procedures. More than 15 numbers of high frequency tests and procedures are steered in round-o-clock manner; both at own lab, even from sources and standardization institutes like BUET.

- Rebar undergoes extensive testing in BUET laboratory, at the start of each project and when selecting new brand, to meet high standards.
- Viscosity tests of cast-in-situ pile works are done everyday until completion.
- Integrity or load test of piles are done after work completion in all projects.
- Each cycle of column and slabs concrete cylinder strength tests are done in both own lab and same samples reports are collected from BUET too.
- Sand and stone aggregates gradation, water absorption, LA value tests are done for each delivery and each project.
- Each truck of ready-mix concrete unloads goes through slump test and temperature control.
- Pressure tests are done for all apartments' utility lines of gas risers and water supply total of three times; later the same is done for the whole project to ensure complete safety possible.

Each project is thoroughly inspected before handover even by top management to ensure all standards are consistently upheld.

Research and Development Program
Edison Launched a dedicated **Research & Development (R&D) program in 2025** to achieve **excellence in construction.** This initiative focuses on **exploring new and innovative ideas, usage of advanced materials, and modern construction technologies** to deliver the **highest standards of quality** to customers. With **efficiency, durability, and customer satisfaction.** Currently, a prototype project is using new technology and eco-friendly material, compared to the traditional way. After successful completion of this initiative, this will be scaled to one of their upcoming luxury residential projects.

Material upgradation
For comfortable living accompanied with reduced maintenance and hassle, materials used in construction are upgraded. The following are significant ones.

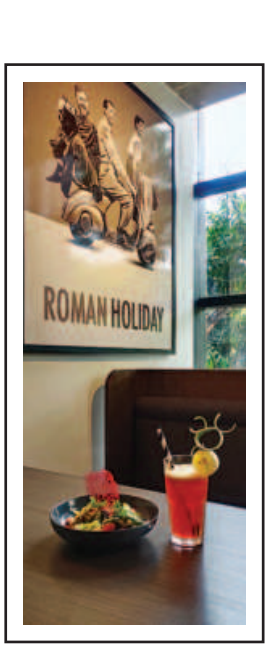
- All stones for casting are imported from UAE.
- REBAR: (87 grade) 600 DWR steel used which is the highest grade in the industry.
- Malaysian coupler brand Leviat is used instead conventional lapping which increase rod longevity and provide better safety and protection during earthquake.

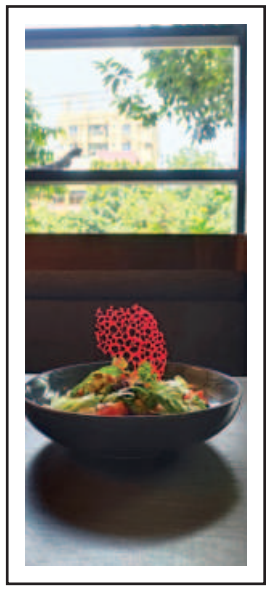
Redefining Happiness
Happiness of residing in an abode comes from within. Thoughtfully designed spaces, coupled with sustainable, durable core of each structure, eradicates headaches of maintenance, cost burden and ensure peace of mind. Edison Real Estate Ltd is here to redefine that for home buyers.

Photo: Courtesy

#RESTAURANT REVIEW

HOUSE CAFÉ rekindles Dhaka's café culture of the past





Some cafés beg to be photographed, and then there are a few rare ones that make you sit down, breathe, and stay a while. House Café does not try to dazzle. It doesn't want to be your next Instagram backdrop. What it does, rather successfully, is revive a mood, a whisper of the '70s and '80s, when café culture was not curated for virality but for comfort, conversation, and the occasional pause.

Tucked away in Dhanmondi, House Café is a slow-burner. You feel it in the lighting, warm, soft, with no sharp white glares trying to sterilise your thoughts. The décor does not shout either; it murmurs. Embracing what the founders call "quiet luxury", the interior of the café has a minimalist approach that feels anything but cold.

Displaying monochromatic portraits of some of the most celebrated films, outfitted with simple lines of furniture, and stylistically furnished with textural variety, the entirety of the space reads as intentionally designed rather than haphazard.

After a year and a half of trial and error, the founders arrived at a small, small and thoughtful menu. They took a little initial quiet inspiration, mostly from Mediterranean, Spanish, and Mexican cuisines, and while they are not really overly experimental nor aggressively traditional, they made it all fit in with the client's parameters.

The shrimp aglio olio is as straightforward as it sounds but comes with enough garlic and bite to make you sit up. The roast beef sandwich, on the other hand, is a rich, satisfying meal disguised in simple packaging. For lighter affairs, the chocolate croissant is already becoming a bit of a favourite — buttery, flaky, and not cloyingly sweet. If you are leaning towards dessert, the vanilla milk cake with pistachios deserves your attention.

The drinks menu is not a secondary thought either. The iced lemon tea feels rejuvenating, especially when paired with the croissant. For the coffee addicts, the classic café latte is clean, no fuss, no burnt beans masquerading as coffee.

What's perhaps most refreshing about House Café is its refusal to follow the noise. While many eateries in Dhaka sprint to ride trends and seasonal fads, House Café moves with its tempo. And it appears to be catching on. With one location established in Gulshan 2 and another arriving in Tejgaon, there is expansion taking place (not fast, but slow and meaningful).

In a city that could sometimes use a pause, House Café reminds us that not everything has to be an immediate, loud, intensive haul from a hundred choices. Sometimes the best places are the ones that take time and encourage you to take your time.

By Maisha Tarannum Iqbal
Photo: Courtesy

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#DECOR

A newlywed's guide to choosing the perfect sofa

The living room is the most happening place of any home, jam-packed with memories, conversations, and a comfortable sofa set. The right sofas are not just about looks but cosiness, utility, and personality. So, if you are a newlywed looking for a sofa set for your home, you are set!

The home of a newlywed couple must welcome their parents or elders. In such a situation, classic 3-seater sofas with a tall back or solid sofas with a divan are ideal choices. Neutral tones like beige, grey, and off-white go well with traditional décor. With these sofa sets, gatherings can be comfortable, and you will score brownie points from your elders.

For couples who are starting off in a new place away from family, a 2-seater velvet or chenille love seat could transform into a corner full of intimacy. In case you want to be a little adventurous, opt for shades such as blush, mint, or powder blue to maintain an allure. A small ottoman or side table can complete the look for a shared coffee date or reading session.

If game nights or binge-watching with friends is your thing, an L-shaped sectional in some darker shade of navy, charcoal, or forest green could definitely be the way to go. With reclining seats or a few customised cupholders built in, the layout screams for newlyweds and their friends to just sprawl out and unwind whilst keeping it real cosy at the same time.

A sofa-cum-bed is one of those things every newlywed couple with an apartment or with frequent guests dreams of. It takes a stylish five-seater to convert it into sleeping space in seconds. Think yellow tints or teal if you need it to pop. An added bonus will be a storage space underneath, especially for small homes. For those who like clean lines and minimalist vibes, a modular sofa in muted colours like sand, ash, or ivory should be the perfect choice.

However, if you are looking to keep things both light and fun, a sofa set in earthy tones, wooden arms, or patterned cushions can bring out the boho spirit. Three-seat sofas in warm tones speak for themselves and, paired with a couple of throws and rugs, make the aura laidback.

All that being said, newlyweds should not have to break all their savings for their dream decor. With flexible EMI options now available both online and offline, a couple can split the payments for their sofa sets into monthly instalments.

The process usually comes with very little paperwork and even quicker approval. This means gentle financing for quality furniture. Whether you want the best materials, recliners, or a clever storage solution, EMIs allow you to build the home you want at your own pace.

So, go ahead and grab the sofa set that tells your story, and start turning your house into a home, one cosy corner at a time!

By Samayla Mahjabin Koishy
Photo: Hatil