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Star

Life

Style

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Special
Wedding Issue

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

A different type of party

From the humble family gatherings of the past to the multi-day events that now fill the calendar, weddings in Bangladesh have always been a special occasion.

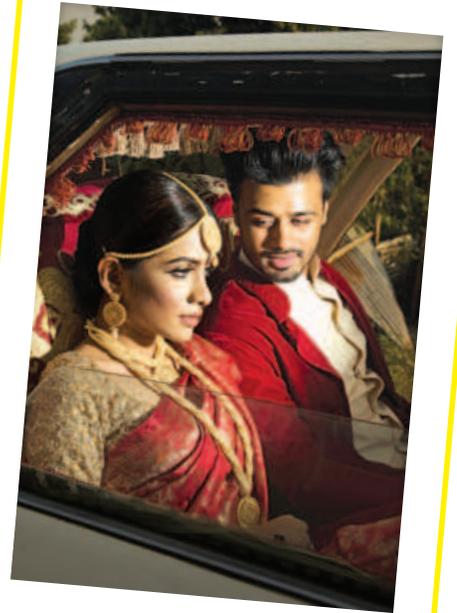
People still celebrate, but the way they do it has changed. Families no longer have to stay in their neighbourhood community centres or on their roofs. The choices have gone well beyond that, sometimes to a beach resort in Cox's Bazar and at other times to a five-star ballroom in the middle of the city. The premise is simple: people want their big day to be special and unique, and they want it to be memorable enough to stand out in a world where every wedding seems to be competing with the next.

Hotels have played a big part in this change. There are many options — locations that advertise themselves as dream sites for destination weddings with the right blend of landscape, lodging, and cuisine, to places that live on grandeur with chandeliers, themed halls, and huge menus.

More and more couples are seeking sites that can hold a lot of people and have their own

personality. It's not just about how many people can fit anymore; it's also about making a background that seems like it belongs in the past in the photos and movies that will be available for years to come.

Of course, travel has almost automatically become part of the equation. Travel apps and platforms are quietly changing how families and visitors get about, making it much easier to schedule, organise,



and manage excursions without the mess that used to be inescapable. Travel has become part of the wedding tale itself, whether it's family members coming in from another country or the bride and groom slipping away for a break after the ceremony.

Then there's jewellery, which is the one thing that makes every Bangladeshi wedding feel complete. Gold and jewels are more than simply decorations; they change the bride. They convey stories of family pride, tradition, and, in some cases, personal taste that goes against the norm. The correct item may change how a bride acts on her wedding day, giving her a unique look that even the most expensive decorations could not match.

This special issue of Star Lifestyle does not try to make weddings seem like something they are not. Instead, it looks at the real choices that go into them, such as where to have it, how to get there, and what makes the bride the bride.

By **K Tanzeel Zaman**
Photo: **Sazzad Ibne Sayed**



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INTERCONTINENTAL DHAKA



A stage for incredible weddings

The idea of extravagant weddings has been instilled within most of us since childhood. From wearing a chic tuxedo to donning an opulent saree or lehenga, at a venue that only elevates their big special day, has been playing on repeat in the minds of many who are soon to be married. However, beyond the reels and the glamour, families today look for one thing above all else: an assurance that the day will be managed with class, precision, and a sense of occasion that lives up to the expectations built over a lifetime.

That standard has been set quietly by InterContinental Dhaka for decades. Known

for offering world-class food and beverage, excellence in service and reputation, InterContinental Dhaka is located in central Dhaka and has over 21,000 square feet of space. It guarantees both style and scale, which makes it the go-to option for events that need to surpass the extraordinary.

The Ruposhi Bangla Grand Ballroom is the largest of its kind because it can host over 1000 guests at a single occasion. The warmly lit chandeliers, tall ceilings, and pillar-less structure, as well as the ballrooms themselves, are awe-inspiring. This allows guests to have a sense of openness while giving them the impression that they are

the main feature of the event rather than spectators. Also, there is a very spacious pre-function area which faces the gardens and is perfect for people to relax and chat before the main event.

For more intimate meetings, there is polished elegance in the Crystal Ballroom. It can host 150+ guests and is finished in a sophisticated manner, which allows for events such as intimate weddings and pre-wedding ceremonies.

The Winter Garden adds a whole new level. Outdoor weddings can be unpredictable, but this setting strikes a good balance between charm and

usefulness. It is a rare open-air refuge in the city that is nonetheless backed by the hotel's service standards. It is surrounded by flora and gets a lot of natural light.

What InterContinental Dhaka really offers is more than just space. It is the trust that every part of the wedding, from the planning to the last details, will be done to a degree of sophistication that few can match. The hotel is still a great choice for couples who want a wedding that people will remember not only for its size but also for how well it went.

By K Tanzeel Zaman
Photo: InterContinental Hotel Dhaka

INCREDIBLE Weddings

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Complimentary 8 Dinner Vouchers for Post Wedding Dinner

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Complimentary Honeymoon Suite with Decor (Executive Suite)
Complimentary 4 Dinner Vouchers for Post Wedding Dinner

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Complimentary Honeymoon Suite with Decor (Deluxe/Junior Suite)

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RAMADA BY WYNDHAM COX'S BAZAR

Where weddings find their stage



Destination weddings have changed the way we think about the big day. For many, it has quietly changed into a celebration of space, atmosphere, and stories we share. Couples are now expecting their guests to do more than just go to a wedding; they want their guests to live the experience. And Ramada by Wyndham Cox's Bazar, sitting on Kolatoli Beach along Marine Drive, does exactly that. It takes the idea of a beachfront wedding and gives it structure, reliability, and a touch of elegance needed to keep everyone, from family elders to friends flying in, at ease.

Accommodation is always a concern for weddings that pull in relatives from near and far. The property's 143 rooms, ranging from ocean front rooms to hill-view spaces, ensure that style and comfort are not afterthoughts.

Presidential and Royal Suites step in for those who want indulgence, while the rest of the rooms still maintain the same sense of care and design.

The scale of weddings also demands flexibility in space. Ramada Cox's Bazar meets this with banquet halls that can be adjusted to fit the mood. Shugondha Banquet Hall, with over 4,000 sq. ft., is ideal for the big night and comfortably accommodates up to 240 guests. For something more intimate, Himchari Hall and Laboni Hall allow for 120 and 60 guests

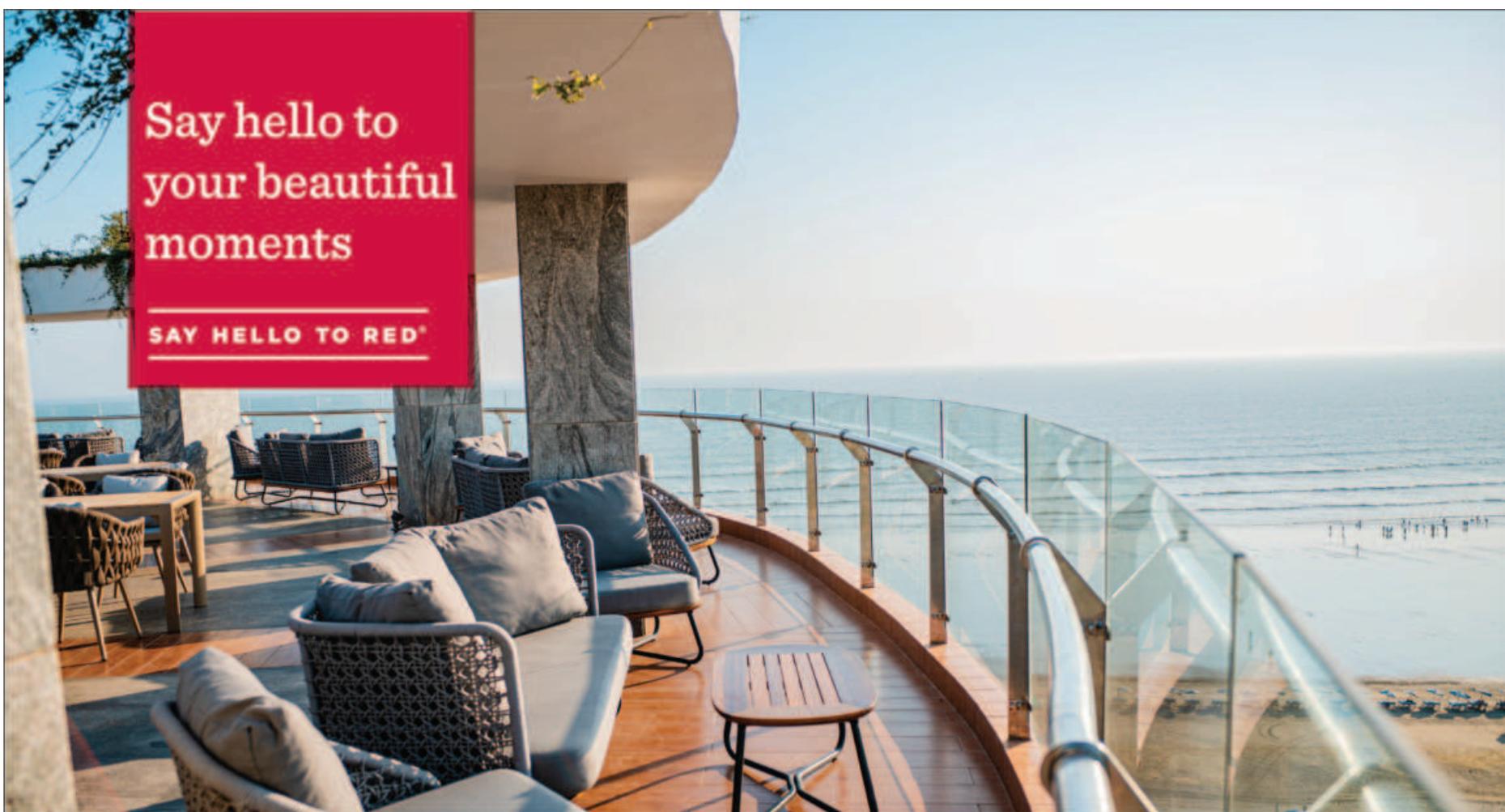
respectively, while the Teknaf Boardroom provides a more exclusive setting for close-knit functions or even pre-wedding planning sessions. Each hall comes with modern AV, internet, and on-hand support, cutting out the usual stress of technical hiccups.

Then comes the in-between. Not only do guests come for the ceremony, but they also spend days preparing for it. The infinity rooftop pool, Arabika Coffee Lounge, Sonali Restaurant, and Ocean Rooftop Lounge are just a few of the lifestyle options that keep things interesting without ever feeling like they are slowing down. The Moroccan Bath, spa, sauna, and salon are all health features that can be added to the wedding to make it more of a leisurely affair.

Cox's Bazar, with its endless stretch of shoreline, already ticks the box for being a natural stage. And, when paired with the right venue, the celebration stops being only about the scenery and becomes something far more refined. To its very essence, the Ramada by Wyndham Cox's Bazar provides more than just a location. It gives you peace of mind knowing everything, from the view of the sea to the comfort of the rooms, is all in one area. Because of this, it is a subtle yet effective option for destination weddings.



By K Tanzeel Zaman
Photo: Ramada by Wyndham - Cox's Bazar



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RAMADA
BY WYNDHAM
COX'S BAZAR KOLATOLI BEACH

MEMBER OF
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REWARDS

SHARETRIP GIFT CARDS: A modern take on wedding gifts

Several toasters and maybe a few more dinner sets; newlyweds often end up with the same wedding gifts. Instead of repeating mundane ideas, we can think out of the box and gift something that will truly be helpful in this day and age and not just fill their cupboards. That's where ShareTrip's Gift Cards step in as a smarter, more practical choice.



The cards provide what most couples really desire — travelling, rather than home appliances and sets of crockery. The cards offer couples the freedom to choose how they want to celebrate after their wedding, whether it's planning a getaway, arranging a honeymoon, or having a staycation in some other city. One may use them for travel, lodging, and even lifestyle items from the ShareTrip Shop. It's a way of saying, "Here's a gift that fits your life, not just your shelf."

Available from as little as Tk 500, these cards suit all budgets, whether it's a small gesture from a friend or a collective gift from close family. If that is not enough, you

can even leave a personal note on the gift card for the recipients. They are available both digitally and in physical form, which can be delivered to you in person, both in and out of Dhaka!

ShareTrip's CEO and Co-founder, Sadia Haque, explains it best, "With more people embracing digital solutions that bring convenience and flexibility, ShareTrip Gift Cards have become a timely innovation. We provide the new generation with a smart and thoughtful way to celebrate any special moment and create meaningful experiences for their loved ones."

Whether it's a wedding, a birthday, or just a thoughtful surprise, ShareTrip has made gifting relevant again. For newlyweds, especially, it's the kind of present that does not just mark the occasion but helps shape memories long after the wedding celebrations are over.

By K Tanzeel Zaman



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THE TIMELESS WEDDING GIFT

Weddings are more than ceremonies; they are moments where time itself feels sacred. Every detail, from the laughter of families to the rustle of bridal silk, carries emotion and meaning. In Bangladesh, among these details lies a tradition both subtle and profound: the gifting of a wristwatch.

For generations, a watch has been more than a useful accessory. It marks the start of a new journey, quietly reminding a bride or groom of the life unfolding after the vows are spoken.

For parents, presenting their son with a watch is often their way of saying, "You are stepping into responsibility." For relatives gifting a bride, it is a wish that every passing moment be filled with beauty and love.

Unlike clothes that fade, or jewellery reserved for rare occasions, a watch is



worn daily. Each glance at the dial recalls the moment it was given and the promise of a shared future.

Modern weddings, while embracing individuality, still uphold this timeless symbolism. Today's couples choose watches not only for their elegance but for what they represent: authenticity, endurance, and trust. The right watch becomes more than an accessory — it becomes a lifelong companion. That is why questions like "Is it genuine? Does it have a warranty? Will it last?" matter so deeply. After all, a wedding gift should be as enduring as the love it celebrates.

With countless options available, every personality finds its match. Classic Swiss brands such as RADO, Longines, and Tissot bring timeless sophistication, while contemporary names like Seiko, CITIZEN, Credence, Fossil, Tommy Hilfigure, and Cairnhill offer modern flair. Some choose a striking design to wear on special occasions; others prefer understated elegance for everyday life.

And with a wide range of prices, beauty and durability need not come at an impossible cost.

But in the end, the true value lies in trust. A genuine watch from an authorised retailer is not just a purchase — it is a promise, backed by after-sales care and an international warranty. For Bangladeshi buyers, TIME ZONE has become that trusted name. With over 80 points of sale across the country and with over 25 years of service, TIME ZONE ensures that when you choose a watch for a wedding, whether as a gift or for yourself, you are investing in authenticity, reliability, and a tradition that never goes out of fashion.

Because a wedding gift should never just mark a day — it should mark a lifetime. And with the right watch, every moment after "I do" becomes a reminder of love, responsibility, and the beauty of time shared.

Photo: Timzone

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