

# 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.

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Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

