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Serene Festivities

PHOTO: ADNAN RAHMAN
MODEL: JARIN
WARDROBE: NEEDLEWORK BY NOOR – A – JANNAT
STYLING & FASHION DIRECTION: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA
MAKEUP: SUMON RAHAT
HAIR: PROBINA

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Keep it fresh, festive, and fuss-free with these Eid makeup tips

Eid is a long, joyful day that begins with morning prayers and family greetings, and often ends with evening gatherings.

Your makeup does not need to remain exactly the same throughout the day. Instead, think of it as a look that can evolve gradually from soft and fresh to festive and glamorous.

Here is a simple guide to adapting your makeup from morning to evening.

Morning: Fresh, light and radiant

Eid mornings usually begin early, often after a busy night of last-minute preparations. The goal for morning makeup is to look bright and refreshed while keeping things light and breathable.

Start with well-prepped skin. A moisturiser and lightweight primer will help create a smooth base and ensure your makeup lasts longer. Instead of heavy foundation, opt for a skin tint, may be a BB cream, or a sheer foundation that evens out the complexion without feeling heavy.

Keep the eyes soft and natural. Neutral eyeshadows, a thin line of eyeliner, and a coat of mascara are enough to open up the eyes. A peach or soft pink blush adds a healthy glow, while a tinted lip balm or nude lipstick keeps the overall look fresh and effortless.

Remember, morning makeup should feel comfortable enough to last through family photos, and the first round of Eid greetings.

Afternoon: Refresh and Revive

By midday, after a hearty Eid lunch and a few visits, your makeup may need a small refresh. Instead of layering more products, focus on quick touch-ups.

Blotting papers can remove excess oil without disturbing your makeup. If needed, lightly tap a small amount of compact powder on the T-zone rather than the entire face.

You can also brighten your look with a little more blush or a subtle highlighter on the cheekbones. Wiping out and reapplying lipstick, perhaps in a slightly brighter shade, can instantly make your face look refreshed.

The idea is not to redo your makeup, but to revive it so it still looks polished for afternoon outings.

Evening: Turn up the glamour

Evening gatherings and Eid dawats often call for something more festive. The good news is that you can easily transform your daytime look into an evening one with a few simple additions.

Deepen your eye makeup by adding a darker shade to the outer corners or along the lash line. A touch of shimmer or glitter on the eyelids can also create a celebratory feel.

You might also switch your lipstick to a richer colour like classic red, berry, or deep rose shades work beautifully for evening occasions. If your outfit is more elaborate, a slightly stronger contour or highlighter can help balance the overall look.

Eid makeup dos and don'ts

A few simple dos and don'ts can help your Eid makeup stay fresh throughout the day. Prep your skin well before applying makeup, choose lightweight products that last, and keep a small touch-up kit with blotting papers, lipstick, and compact powder.

At the same time, avoid heavy layers of foundation in the morning, over-powdering your face during the day, and neglecting skincare – hydrating skin always looks better.

By Farhana Faiza
Photo: LS Archive

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Why slow fashion is the smarter choice for your closet

Fashion has always moved fast. New collections arrive before we have even worn the last ones, and trends seem to change faster than the weather forecast. One moment it is oversized blazers, the next it is replaced with Polo. Somewhere along the way, our wardrobes keep filling up with pieces worn once or twice— or worse, never.

This is where the idea of slow fashion enters the conversation. Unlike fast fashion, which focuses on rapid production and quick turnover of trends, slow fashion encourages a more thoughtful approach to clothing. It values quality over quantity, longevity over novelty, and design that can survive more than one fashion season. Closely tied to this is sustainable fashion, which looks at the environmental and ethical side of clothing production, from how fabrics are sourced to how garments are made and consumed.

The two concepts often overlap. Slow fashion asks us to buy less but better, while sustainable fashion encourages choices that reduce waste and environmental impact.

For consumers, this does not necessarily mean giving up style or living in a capsule wardrobe of five staple kurtas. It simply means being a little more intentional with what goes into the closet.

One of the easiest ways to start slow fashion is to prioritise fabrics that last. Natural materials such as cotton, linen, and silk tend to age better than synthetic alternatives. A well-made cotton kurta or linen shirt, for instance, can last several years if cared for properly. Instead of buying five trendy tops that barely survive a few washes, investing in one or two well-constructed pieces can make far more sense.

Versatile dressing is no less than art. And that is why slow fashion pieces are designed to work across different settings. A simple linen co-ord set can move easily from a casual brunch to a semi-formal gathering with just a change of accessories. A neutral-toned saree or a classic black dress can be styled differently for multiple occasions.

When clothing is adaptable, it naturally stays in rotation longer.

Of course, the idea of "buying less" might sound slightly alarming to those who enjoy a little retail therapy — which, let's be honest, is most of us. But slow fashion does not mean abandoning shopping altogether.

For instance, before purchasing something new, ask a few simple questions: Will I wear this more than once? Can it be styled in other ways? If it ticks the boxes, then go for it.

Another surprisingly effective approach is a quick revisit to your own wardrobe. Many forgotten pieces only need a bit of creativity to feel new again. A long kaftan can be styled as a dress with a belt. An old saree can be reimagined into an anarkali or shalwar kameez set. Even switching up jewellery or footwear can dramatically change the look of an outfit.

Sustainable fashion also encourages supporting artisans and smaller labels that focus on local craftsmanship rather than mass production. Handwoven textiles, hand embroidery, and small-batch collections carry a detail that fast fashion fails to replicate.

These pieces may cost slightly more upfront, but they usually deliver greater longevity and exclusivity.

There is also a financial advantage to this slower approach. And don't we all love a save!

While fast fashion may look inexpensive, constantly buying new pieces adds up. Over time, investing in fewer but better-quality clothes can actually be more budget-friendly.

Slow fashion and sustainable fashion, in many ways, is less about restriction and more about awareness. It asks us to pause before buying, appreciate the craftsmanship, and value pieces that stay relevant long after the trend cycle moves on.

At the end of the day, a wardrobe filled with thoughtful choices, and clothes that truly get worn, is not only better for the planet, but also far kinder to our closets, our budgets, and our sense of style.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Friendship Colours of the Chars

#PROFILE

Fariya Tazin on balancing fashion trends and creative identity

Not every designer begins with a degree in fashion or a portfolio polished in a design institute. Some begin with instinct, and the audacity to trust it.

For Fariya Tazin, the journey into fashion was not mapped out by formal training. It was built gradually, piece by piece, long before it became a profession. She would sketch ideas for herself and ask a tailor to execute them, experimenting quietly, observing reactions, adjusting silhouettes. What started as personal expression slowly turned into something larger. Not because she followed a formula, but because she understood something many overlook— fashion is as much about understanding your clientele as it is art.

"In our country's context, experimental work is not always welcomed," she says candidly. "Sometimes, what you need more than your creativity is an understanding of consumer psychology."

That awareness became her advantage. Instead of designing for applause within the industry, she began designing for the woman standing in front of her wardrobe. What would she reach for after a long week? What feels indulgent but not intimidating? According to Tazin, retail therapy is rarely about extremes. It is more often about finding something refined without being alien.

Of course, colour sense and cut matter. But she speaks less about dramatic statements and more about balance — about knowing how far to push a neckline, how much asymmetry is too much, how to make a piece feel distinctive without making it unapproachable.

When Tazin formally stepped into the business with her brand Polka Drops, she found the design landscape heavily monopolised in terms of aesthetics. Many labels were offering variations of the same ideas. Rather than compete by imitation, she chose a different path. She wanted her house to stand for premium quality that still felt reasonable — a space where aspiration did not mean exclusion.

Over time, her work expanded into both couture and prêt. The rhythm of her collections now shifts intentionally. This Eid, for example, she chose to focus on slow fashion — fewer pieces, more detail, greater emphasis on exclusivity of design. After the festive season, Tazin plans to pivot toward faster drops, responding to the quicker retail pace that customers increasingly expect.

Remaining relevant in a trend-driven industry while preserving creative identity is quite a challenge. And Tazin is honest about that tension. "If you want to stay in the business, you must go with the trend to some extent. However, the key is to know how far you can go before your work just becomes a replica," she states.

Her work frequently experiments with ombré palettes and new cuts, serving a clientele that now spans eight to nine countries. Yet, not every creative risk is rewarded. She describes moments of demoralisation when customers gravitate toward trend-heavy pieces — the predictable 3 out of 10 designs, instead of the 7 designs that reflect her personal vision. That imbalance can be testing. So can monotony.

When asked about the moment that challenged her confidence the most, she does not mention financial strain or criticism. She speaks about repetition — the fear of creative stagnation. In an industry heavily dependent on imported materials and global supply chains, originality can feel both urgent and fragile. Innovation requires not only imagination, but resilience.

"All our materials are imported," Tazin explains, pointing to the effort invested in sourcing. Yet she remains deliberate about pricing. "Style is personal. But I think fashion should be for all. That's how we set the price for our dresses."

In a market where exclusivity is often equated with prestige, her approach challenges the idea that good design must be unattainable.

"Sustaining in this industry for this long would be impossible if I didn't give enough quality and work," Tazin believes.

The way Tazin speaks about success is not framed as overnight triumph or dramatic reinvention. Instead, it appears as steady navigation between trend and instinct, ambition and relatability, global clientele and local sensibility.

In an industry that often celebrates spectacle, Tazin's journey feels rooted in something subtler — understanding. Understanding her market, her limitations, her strengths and the evolving rhythm of fashion itself.

And perhaps that is her real training; not in classrooms, but in listening.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Sheikh Suraiya Rehnuma

Designer: Fariya Tazin

Make a statement this EID with elegant flowy dresses

What a blessed month Ramadan is, and Eid is the perfect reward at the end of it! Preparing for it is perhaps our most awaited activity in the whole year, as we go all out, and happily so, during this time! Saving the best designs and ideas for Eid it is a truly special time indeed when everyone wants to look their absolute best.

Star LIFE Style

The weather is mild and temperate at this time of the year, and dressing up for Eid is going to be easy, breezy, and beautiful! To that end, flowy dresses that let you move comfortably and look like a dream are on everyone's wish list this Eid!

Fashion that is gracious and fluid will always be favoured. When wearing a dress, the wearer must be at the forefront; her essence, her spirit must radiate with her aura, with the outfit complementing her energy. Soft and diaphanous, a muslin kaftan in soft hues is exactly that, letting the wearer shine, while highlighting her beauty. Long, loose abaya style dresses with delicate, elegant embroidery are chic and perfect for those long days of entertaining on Eid day, followed by visiting friends and family with no time to change in between.

Shades of peach, pink, yellow, and ivory are ideal; they are soft, yet sophisticated, with just the right amount of sparkle for the festivities. Long kaftan-style kameezes are all the rage this year. Combining form and function in a wonderful way, these are perfect for day wear, as well as parties at night. Choose a shade that's a touch richer, like mauve, lilac, or mocha brown for those magical, velvety Eid evenings, when lights shine a bit brighter and starts to sparkle with an extra touch of twinkle!

Rich green and teal are sister colours that make its wearer feel and look fabulous effortlessly. They are also great for both day and night. A lovely long kameez will be perfect for afternoon Eid soirées and evening gatherings, when one wants to look and feel extra special and glamorous. Add a pair of stunning heels, a sweet little clutch, and some chandelier earrings, and voilá!

Your Eid glamour will make you the belle of every ball!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan
Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model: Tania & Jarin
Wardrobe: Needlework by Noor – a – Jannat
Styling & Fashion Direction: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Makeup: Sumon Rahat
Hair: Probina

One ingredient, two showstopping Eid desserts worth making

#FOOD & RECIPES

Eid morning has a particular kind of magic to it — the house smells of ghee before the sun is fully up, and by the time guests arrive, the table is already crowded with more food than anyone could reasonably finish. Shemai, in some form, is almost always at the centre of it. These two recipes take that familiar ingredient and stretch it in two delicious directions: one a golden, syrup-drenched kunafa with a molten cheese centre, the other a rich, creamy nawabi shemai that lands somewhere between a pudding and a celebration. Both are made to be shared generously, which is, after all, the whole point of the day, isn't it?

KUNAFA

Ingredients

200g lachha shemai
60g butter or ¼ cup ghee
¼ tsp orange food colour
½ cup grated mozzarella cheese
100g sterilised cream
100g ricotta cheese/mawa
1 tbsp sugar
Raisins and nuts for garnish
For the sugar syrup —
1 cup water
½ cup sugar
A few strands of saffron
1 tsp lime juice

Method

Add softened butter or ghee to a pack of lachha shemai and combine well using your fingertips. Once all the butter is incorporated, drop in orange food colour and combine again, and set it aside. In a bowl, crumble mawa or ricotta cheese (whichever is available to you) and add in sterilised cream along with sugar and mix everything together to get a smooth paste.

To assemble, in a greased springform pan, place half of the vermicelli mixture. Pat the top hard using your fingertips to pack the mixture. Then, pour the cheese and cream mixture on top and spread evenly. Next, top with shredded mozzarella cheese. Finally, add the remaining vermicelli mixture on top and pat, ensuring it is tightly packed.

Let this bake in a preheated oven at 170°C for 25-30 minutes. Meanwhile, make the sugar syrup. In a pan, add water and sugar and stir, wait for it to come to a

simmer. Once it is simmering, drop in a few strands of saffron and let it boil. Once it is thick and attained a strong consistency, turn off the heat and drop in a few drops of lime juice.

Once the kunafa is baked with mozzarella oozing out, let it cool down only for 5 minutes. Pour the sugar syrup on top generously and let it cool down completely. Decorate the top with raisins and your choice of nuts such as pistachios and almonds. Serve warm.

NAWABI SHEMAI

Ingredients

200g lachha shemai
2 tbsp ghee
2 tbsp desiccated coconut
2 tbsp sugar
500g milk
100g sterilised cream

200g condensed milk
2 tbsp custard powder
3 tbsp corn flour
8 tbsp milk powder
2 tbsp chopped pistachios
2 tbsp slivered almonds

Method

Heat ghee in a pan and add a packet of lachha shemai along with sugar, desiccated coconut, and 4 tablespoons of milk powder. Combine everything together and toast the mixture on low flame for 5 minutes. Keep stirring this continuously so that the vermicelli does not burn and brown. Once done, keep this aside.

In a saucepan, pour in milk, condensed milk, remaining powdered milk, and cream; whisk these together and start cooking on medium heat. Once slightly warm, take aside one cup of milk and add custard powder and corn flour and stir well to combine; pour this back to the milk and cream mixture.

Cook this mixture on medium heat while stirring constantly until it thickens and bubbles start to appear at the top. Once it reaches a custard consistency, remove from heat. To assemble, spoon a thick layer of vermicelli in your serving dish and then pour over the milk mixture. Then, top with another layer of toasted vermicelli. Garnish with chopped pistachios and almonds on top.

LS Desk
Food and Photo: Fariha Amber

#PERSPECTIVE

THE GREAT SALAMI BETRAYAL

There are many betrayals in life. Some of the most significant ones have been documented in history, including political defections, shattered alliances, and the occasional sports player joining a rival team. However, none of them prepared us for the first, and arguably, the most catastrophic and earliest betrayal of our lives.

The Eid salami betrayal! By none other than our own parents.

Most Bangladeshi children begin Eid morning as small but ambitious capitalists. We wake up early, slip into clothes slightly too shiny for daylight — clothes treasured beyond reason, because today, and today only, in these clothes, the world will finally see us in all our glory — and then we set out with a clear economic agenda: **maximise salami.**

The model is simple. Hug relatives. Say "Eid Mubarak." Extend a hand with just the right mixture of innocence and expectation. Receive crisp notes of Eid salami.

Sometimes, it's a crisp Tk 10 note from a distant uncle who has not yet adjusted to inflation. Sometimes, it's a generous Tk 50 from a khala who understands that childhood happiness requires proper funding. Maybe even a rare hundred from a grandparent who believes in spoiling children during Eid.

And then, on extremely good years, a majestic Tk 500 note from that one chacha or mama we all have — whose arrival alone lifts the national mood of the cousin community.

For a brief and glorious moment, we are wealthy.

Children gather in corners of living rooms and quietly conduct financial audits. Notes are flattened. Coins are sorted. Strategies are discussed. The Eid economy is thriving.

But just when our financial future begins to look promising, a calm voice appears beside us.

"Give it to me. I'll keep it safe."

It is always said with great kindness. The tone suggests responsible financial management. A parent, after all, is simply protecting a child from the many dangers that come with sudden wealth.

And like the naive investors we are, we comply. The money is handed over. And that is the last time we see it.

At first, we do not suspect anything. We trust the system. But after a few days, curiosity begins to grow. I remember asking my mother, "Where is my salami?" She said, "In the drawer."

"Which drawer?"

"The safe drawer," she replied.

I am still looking for that drawer.

The safe drawer, as it turns out, is just a concept. It exists in theory, but locating it in practice is remarkably impossible.

Gradually, we realize the truth. Eid salami was never really ours. It was merely passing through our hands on its way to the household budget.

Many of us spent years believing our parents were running a sort of savings programme for us — a long-term investment fund, a modest trust.

Somewhere in adulthood, it dawns on us that the fund had, unfortunately, been liquidated around the same time the gas bill was due.

Years passed. We grew up. We got jobs. We started buying our own Eid clothes. The shiny outfits were replaced with sensible ones, and the only financial counting we now do involves mobile banking apps, rising grocery bills, and other responsible expenses.

Now, small children approach us during Eid. They say "Eid Mubarak" with the same suspicious enthusiasm we once had.

We are now on the other side of the economy.

We are the salami providers.

We hand over a crisp note and watch the child's eyes light up — the same reckless, unearned excitement we once wore like a medal. For a fleeting moment, we are them again — kneeling in corners of living rooms, whispering cousin strategies, counting every note with the desperate seriousness of tiny day labourers, dreaming wildly of what even a handful of taka could buy.

And then, somewhere in the background, we hear it again — the calm, familiar voice:

"Give it to me. I'll keep it safe.

By Jannatul Bushra
Photo: LS Archive / Jannatul Bushra

#MUSING

Why men sleep through Eid and feel absolutely no guilt

I don't think its hyperbole to say that there is a tangible joy and excitement on the morning of Eid. You feel that 'specialness' despite being woken up at 6 AM by your folks so that you can shower and be ready for the Eid prayer (and of course it HAS to be the first jamaat according to your dad).

So, what's in store for me on Eid day? I go pray, come home, hug my parents and collect my first salami. Then it's a waiting game, as friends plan out the day. Once that's done, its go-time. We roam around food joints, and near the afternoon, we head for wonderland park in Gulshan and hit the arcades, and we wrap up the day meeting everyone else at Movenpick, a hub where all the cool kids gathered. As I headed out of the ice cream parlour, everything went dizzy and then black. Did I just eat something weird and am now passing out in front of all these kewl people?

I open my eyes to a dark room, my own, to the sound of Govi playing in the background. I realise after coming back from Eid prayer, I fell asleep and was just dreaming of Eids past. I check the clock, and its 9 PM. As I come out, I get an earful from the folks on sleeping through the entire Eid day.

I check the phone, thinking surely other people had a more exciting day than me. Turns out, most of my friends were sleeping too. We had a laugh, and that got me thinking; does going past 35 have some sort of male programming override where we give up the hopping for napping? And if so, why?

Well, for one thing, being adults, things like vacations are now fairy tales we see kids indulging in. That means we hardly get a chance to just do nothing, which usually entailed sleep.

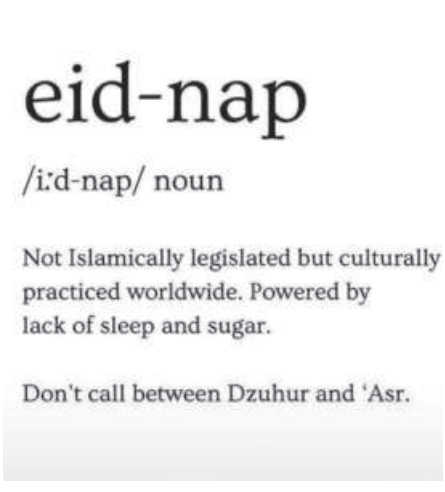
"But you sleep every other day. Why do it on Eid?" I hear you ask. Well, once again, answering for my brethren, there's just a special kind of peace on Eid day. Everything is off, there is no risk of an unexpected work call, and no task that needs us. There's no describing how much

peace that brings to the mind, and the following depth of the sleep.

And there's also an 'economic' benefit to being out cold all day. Remember, we are now on the giving side of salamis. And in the same way we preyed on our relatives, their kids now employ those same tactics on us. And so, when they encounter a sleeping mama/cousin/bhaia, their tactics have to take a backseat. Cheap shot? Maybe. But then again, these brats don't know inflation; if they did, they'd come to pat our backs in consolation before quietly seeing themselves out.

Which brings me to the married men. I say this because if sleeping through Eid is an art form for single men, for married men it is a contact sport.

Nahid, a newly married 39-year-old, thought he had shared enough disclaimers with his wife that she would



have been prepared for it. "She had been briefed. Thoroughly. I sent her voice notes. But what does she do? She wakes me up so that I stay near the kitchen so that I can taste test everything she makes. Didn't she tell me during our early days that she was an excellent cook? If that is true, why does the korma need a second opinion? And if it is not true, why am I only finding out now, ten minutes into Eid morning?"

Eid life's not much better for Ashik, who's been married to his wife for the better part of a decade. "She likes going out every Eid. Fair. We worked out a system — we'd go socialise after 7 PM. Great! Except she wakes me up at 3 PM to start getting ready. But its not me who needs to put on foundation, put lipstick on, try 17 different dresses and then 36 pairs of shoes to go with said dress, and then try on 100 different earrings, before she considers herself looking 'natural.' I have one panjabi, one sandal, one watch, and one wallet. It takes me five minutes to leave the house, so why not wake me ten minutes before that?" laments Ashik.

Hearing all this in the group chat made me realise that the irony of getting married is that even though you are now old, you have to pretend to be young again. Except now, you switch the venue from Movenpick/Westin to other people's homes, talking about rising costs of onion and oil, and whether anyone has plans for World War III.

As for me, I consider sleeping on Eid a milestone of age and maturity, and understand that the power to see the magic of Eid and truly enjoy yourself existed when you were young. Now, the best gift you can give yourself is a drawn curtain, a silent phone, and the kind of sleep that asks nothing of you. I just wish my fellow man a peaceful nap this Eid — and may your relatives assume you are deeply, unreachably asleep.

By Intisab Shahriyar
Illustration: Intisab Shahriyar

#PERSPECTIVE

THE WORST IFTAR EXPERIENCES:
Confessions from a fasting city

Ramadan is all about restraint and spiritual discipline. We know it. We say it with conviction. We post about it. We even forward WhatsApp messages about it. But how many of us actually manage to restrain ourselves during iftar?

Yes, of course, we fast the whole day. We do not drink a single drop of water. We heroically ignore the office tea at 3 PM. We scroll through food reels as a test of character. We almost become saints in daylight.

But then maghrib happens.

The azan has not even finished echoing across Dhaka, and we are already elbow-deep in oil.

And somehow, it is always during iftar that we "explore" the most food items, despite preaching abstention the whole day. However, "explore" is a noble word. What we really do is overestimate ourselves. And sometimes, while overestimating, we get humbled — by a beguni that tastes like regret, or by a bowl of haleem that costs more than our self-respect.

So, we asked a few explorers — people who promise to restrain themselves every year, but somehow fail with remarkable consistency.

Tanvir Ahmed, a development worker and fervent food enthusiast, sighs the sigh of a man who has queued before.

"I had always heard about Puran Dhaka and Chawkbazar. I was so excited to go there and 'live the experience', explore the food. But, good God — the number of people who gush there, one can barely stand or breathe."

He pauses, then continues.

"And that thing called Boro Baper Polay Khay is a total scam. I genuinely wonder why a rich man's son would eat that at iftar. I wish I could meet this son," he says dryly. "Because if this is what he eats, I would prefer to be poor and eat something else."

A banker from Gulshan, who wishes to remain anonymous "for financial recovery reasons," recalls his tryst with premium haleem.

"My colleague suggested it. There was a 45-minute queue. I assumed it would change my life. It did. I now trust nobody."

He describes the texture as "ambitious cement."

"For Tk 400, I expected poetry. I received lentil paste."

Then there is Sadia, 23, who attempted what she sadly calls "the office iftar."

"Look," she groans, "my boss hyped it like it was some sort of spiritual reunion. He said, 'You'll love it! It's a vibe!' — which is corporate speak for 'You will be trapped here eating questionable piyajus with people you barely tolerate.' I see these colleagues eight hours a day. And now I am supposed to bond with them while I am starving and cranky? No way — I would prefer to go home."

Shanto, a painter, thought he had outwitted Ramadan traffic.

"I ordered delivery food at 4:30 PM. The app said 30 minutes."

He pauses, then continues, "At 5:55 PM, the rider was 'nearby.' That day I realised 'nearby' means the same country in these apps."

The food arrived at 6:41 pm, all cold.

"I ate it anyway. Hunger reduced my standards and my personality."

Dhaka, however, will not let you rest. We will continue to treat the iftar queues of Puran Dhaka as pilgrimages we are duty-bound to complete, convince ourselves that overpaying is culture, and insist that restraint is a virtue we deeply admire but rarely practise.

We will order too much, photograph everything, chew hurriedly, sigh theatrically, and overhype without hesitation — only to repeat the ritual next year as though hunger has taught us nothing at all.

By Jannatul Bushra
Photo: Amran Hossain/STAR, Collected
Illustration: K T Humaira

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#TRAVEL

LEAVE THE CITY BEHIND:
5 untouched natural havens to visit this Eid holiday

Cox's Bazar

Netrokona

Bandarban

Eid holidays come with a rare gift, which is time, so it is the perfect opportunity to step away from the noise of cities and reconnect the soul with nature. Bangladesh has a diverse landscape of sea, forests, hills and tea gardens, where travellers can take breather and slow down for a few days.

Here are 5 destinations to visit in Bangladesh to feel closer to nature this Eid holiday.

Cox's Bazar

No list begins without Cox's Bazar, as it is the first place that comes to mind for vacations. The world's longest natural sea beach, Cox's Bazar, remains one of Bangladesh's must- and most-visit destinations. The main beaches can become a little busy during Eid, but if you're willing to explore a little more, you can discover quieter places, and that is where nature truly shines.

Start the morning with the smell of the ocean, stand barefoot on the wet sand at dawn, and feel the soft spring breeze while the sun is setting in the west. A walk on the beach at sunrise and sunset will calm your brain in a way that the busy city life rarely does.

The endless hills of Himchari are on the left side of the road, with small waterfalls in between, and on the right side is the unbreakable beach. Enjoy this view while on the marine drive road. Cox's Bazar does not merely show you nature; it immerses you in it wholeheartedly.

Sreemangal

If there is one place in Bangladesh that gives off a smell of earth itself, it is definitely Sreemangal. Known as the tea state of Bangladesh, this quiet town of Sylhet, is covered in rolling hills of green tea gardens, spreading in every direction your eyes can follow, which resets something deep inside you.

Walking through the winding roads of the tea gardens in the morning feels downright dreamy. The cool breeze carries the scent of fresh tea leaves, which shine brightly in the soft sun rays. You will also be able to explore nature trails and spot wildlife such as monkeys, rare birds, and rare plants.

Sreemangal offers an idyllic escape that will always whisper in your heart for revisiting over and over again.

Bandarban

If you want a mix of nature and adventure, then Bandarban offers the bundle of these two with breath-taking hill landscapes. This destination will give you the feeling of a different world compared to busy cities. The Bandarban journey itself is a whole other experience.

The high winding road climbs through the green hills on both sides. The more you climb, the closer you will feel to the clouds; Nilgiri and Nilachal reveal panoramic views of clouds floating over mountains. You do not look at them from below; you feel you are walking through them.

The Sangu River, waterfalls, lakes, and hiking trails lead you deep into nature.

Apart from the scenery, the cultural diversity of hill communities will add another level of beauty to the trip. Waking up to mountain views, green hills, and fresh air on Eid holidays will recharge your tiring soul.

Tetulia

People rarely look at the northern corner of Bangladesh when they plan for a trip. But Tetulia gives one of the country's most peaceful travel experiences. Tetulia sits next to the bank of the Teesta River, encircled by open fields, tea gardens, and quiet countryside.

Sreemangal

Sunrise and sunset views on the other side of the river are so healing, as the golden rays stretch across the wide landscape. You can catch a glimpse of the distant Himalayan peaks from Tetulia on exceptionally clear days; it is quite a rare, and unmatched, view within Bangladesh.

The slower pace of life, and the cool spring northern breeze will make the vibe more comfortable and allow you to relax and enjoy nature without any disruptions. So, if you are looking for solitude and scenic beauty during your long Eid break, Tetulia should be at the top of your list.

Netrokona

Netrokona? for a travel destination? We rarely hear people suggest it as a travel destination. Located in the north-eastern region, this place is a refreshing escape filled with rivers, wetlands, and rural charm. This district is well-known for the china clay hills.

The Birishiri Lake is a scenic area, famous for its turquoise-blue lake that is perfectly surrounded by the hills. This eye-catching landscape is rarely seen elsewhere in Bangladesh.

If you are someone who doesn't like trekking, but enjoys greenery and hill views, then you should definitely visit Netrokona this Eid. As Netrokona is not like other tourist spots, you can find yourself away from Eid vacation chaos.

Eid is about celebration with your close ones — and sometimes, the best way to enjoy this is by reconnecting with nature. So, this Eid, let your heart lead you somewhere the busy city life cannot follow.

By Faria Nowshin Tazin
Photo: Collected, Shahrear Kabir Heemel/LS Archive

Cox's Bazar