

Dressed up coffee culture, Dhaka style

Bangladeshis and our collective love for caffeine is one for the books. We as a nation cannot, and will not, survive a day without our beloved cuppa, be it coffee or tea. It is a love affair that is enduring, and no other beverage compares.

While tea reigns supreme among the masses, coffee has its own unique fanbase that is more discerning and passionate. So much so that they have their own way of dressing up for the simple yet profound ritual of, well, going for a cup of coffee. And I would be remiss to not admit they are stylish and sophisticated while also being coffee connoisseurs.

People from other parts of the world may find it odd that we Dhakaiites "dress up" for our coffee runs, but that's just the way we roll. For others, getting a coffee is routine, a mundane but essential start to the day that will just not begin without a java jolt. In Dhaka, we do things differently, and we do it in style.

For one thing, we love our coffee in the morning just as much as in the evening. Sometimes even more so, simply because of the way it brings friends and family together after hours.

This evening coffee run is a leisurely affair. After a hectic day that involves gulping multiple mugs of stale Americano and maybe an odd Cappuccino thrown in for variety, hastily made by the office peon, in the evenings, the connoisseur in us takes over and how. Dressed in our smart casuals, which in Dhaka's coffee culture translates to a smart linen shirt or a stylish off shoulder blouse with chic linen pants, we take our moment choosing the hottest new coffee spot with the best Sumatran or Ethiopian beans.

Arguing with our fellow discerning coffee-loving friends about the best roasting level of beans that brings out flavours the most, we make sure our stylish matching set is pristine and perfect. Be assured that while debating whether Bodum makes the best French press or Bialetti for our beloved cold brew, our flowy blouses perfectly complement our relaxed state of mind. And as far as the boys are concerned, their crisp pastel linen shirts are giving just the right amount of leisurely vibes as they argue over the perfect temperature to heat their Bialetti moka pots to achieve an intense cup of Espresso or two!

Calling it a night after such a warm and refreshing cup, we head home happy and content, putting our style feet forward!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan

Photo: Palash Biswas

Models: Azraf, Prionty, Bouland and Rayhan

Styling & Design: Samira Hamid & Taskin Rahman

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Location: O Play

