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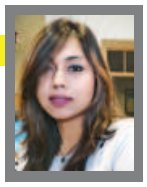
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64-65 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenu

The Fashion edit

PHOTO: ADNAN RAHMAN
MODEL: MASHIAT, EMON
STYLING & FASHION DIRECTION: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA
WARDROBE: RIMA NAZ, CATS EYE
MAKEUP: PIASH
LIGHT: SELIM AHAMED & SHAKIL
LOCATION: THE CROWNE PLAZA DHAKA AIRPORT

LIFE AS IT IS

WARA KARIM
Writer, painter, gardener, content creator
Website: http://www.scratchingout.com



Hello, stranger! Why talking to unknown people makes my heart full



Although an ambivert, I fall more on the introvert side. I tend to lose energy when I socialise and gain energy when I spend time alone. However, there is one kind of social interaction that always uplifts me: talking to strangers! After talking to unfamiliar people, I almost always walk away with a smile and a wealth of information about a person whom I will likely never meet again, or who might one day become an acquaintance, who knows.

I have met strangers from different walks of life, and I think the conversations that I have had with them enriched me as a person. Because strangers do not belong to our family or social circles, they may have backgrounds and lifestyles very different from our own, and it is these differences that allow us to see the world through a different lens.

On the third weekend of October, I met and conversed with three people at a community farmers' market, where local farmers and small-business owners come together every Saturday for three hours to sell their goods and services.

Although I met Tanya, a beautiful woman from Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), on previous occasions while purchasing herbal teas, I never had a real conversation with her. That day, however, I asked her about her teas, how she sources the ingredients, and eventually, her personal life. When my husband and I mentioned that we were from Bangladesh, she smiled and said that her husband speaks Bengali.

We were taken aback.

"How? Is he from Bangladesh?" I asked.

"No, my husband worked as a translator for the United Nations," Tanya said.

In Ivory Coast, her husband worked as a translator for the Bangladesh Armed Forces peacekeepers. Tanya, too, worked for the UN when she lived there.

I always learn something new when I talk to unfamiliar people! Had I not started a conversation with Tanya that day, could I have ever learnt that a man from Ivory Coast lived in my city and spoke my mother tongue?

"If he were here, he would have spoken to you in Bengali," Tanya said.

At the same farmers' market, I had long conversations with two other women. One of them was very young, in her mid-twenties or less. Her name was Kay. She was born in Guangzhou, China, but moved to the US when she was a child. When I told her that I had family in China, she asked me where they lived and worked and if I had photographs of them. I opened my Instagram and showed her photos of my family. As she showed interest in my writing, I also shared with her my author profile on The Daily Star's website. In return, she shared with me her sister's blog, which writes on fashion and healthy living. When we bid goodbye, each of us carried a piece of the other's world.

The other woman I met at the market was Athena. She is half-Filipino, although I felt that she could easily pass for Italian or Latina.

Athena looks after the outreach side of her husband's chiropractic practice. She did a free assessment of my spine to show how stress affects different areas of the backbone. After exchanging a few sentences about spine health, we began to talk about our lives.

I learned from Athena that her parents met in Saudi Arabia, where her Filipino mother was a veterinarian, and her father served in the US military. They fell in love, and her mother eventually moved to the US, where she had family. They married and raised two daughters, one of whom is Athena.

I believe that every conversation with a stranger enriches me as a person. However, most of us hesitate to strike up a conversation with a person we do not know because we are either too shy or afraid of rejection.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 11











#PHOTOGRAPHY

Turning candid wedding moments INTO LASTING MEMORY

The friend recording your wedding is often missing from the footage. While everyone else dances, laughs, or gathers around the bride, someone is busy finding the right angle and making sure the phone keeps recording. By the end of the evening, they have documented the celebration but experienced much of it through a screen.

For Salsabil Salah and Faiza Azad, that familiar situation helped shape Mishti Memories, their wedding content creation venture. Built around "more presence and less production," it offers couples short videos and informal photographs while giving their loved ones the freedom to join the celebrations.

"Yes, your friends and family have digital cameras and iPhones, but do they want to live in the moment at your wedding, or do they want to spend it capturing videos and pictures?" asks Salah.



The idea emerged from their experiences as a bride and a bridesmaid. They valued professional photographs and wedding films, but also wanted memories in the format they enjoyed watching every day: short, easily re-playable videos.

"We just wanted to have weddings, like our weddings and our friends' weddings, in that format so we could enjoy them as little TikToks or reels," she explains.

They began exploring the idea in early



2025, looking at wedding content creators abroad, speaking to people outside Dhaka, and asking prospective clients whether such a service interested them.

Their enthusiasm was supported by complementary skills: Salah has an engineering background and enjoys experimenting with technology, while Azad works professionally with visual graphics and reel editing.

"We both joke and say we're just two girls carrying our DigiCam and snapping pictures all the time, so why not do this for people who might be interested?"

A place beside the wedding photographer

That question leads to another: when a couple has already hired photographers and cinematographers, what does a content creator add?

For Salah, the distinction lies in the format, turnaround, and approach. Their venture works alongside those professionals, concentrating on informal interactions, short videos and candid snapshots that feel closer to a friend's view of the occasion.

"Our biggest goal was that, yes, there are lots of photographers and videographers doing amazing work, but we, as wedding content creators, want to come in and capture the raw, cute, fun moments," she says.

Speed is part of the appeal. According to Salah, couples can receive reels and digital-camera photographs the following day.

"It's bite-sized, easy to consume, and readily available."

That immediacy changes how wedding memories are enjoyed. A brief clip can be replayed over breakfast or sent to a relative while the excitement is still fresh. Salah also sees an audience beyond younger couples,



pointing out that parents enjoy watching Facebook reels too.

The tools behind the moments

Their approach combines current technology with older visual formats. Alongside phones and digital cameras, Salah describes using disposable cameras, film, camcorders and Meta Ray-Ban glasses.

"We like blending new tech with vintage tech," she says.

The variety reflects an interest in how different devices record the same celebration. A camcorder or digital-camera snapshot offers a different feel from polished professional imagery, fitting their preference for relaxed documentation.

Yet their essential tool is straightforward.

"An iPhone, at the bare minimum. You need an iPhone to record videos, edit reels, take photos, and store media."

Salah acknowledges that this preference also reflects client perceptions. Some customers specifically ask about iPhone models, although she recognises that other smartphones have strong camera hardware.

Experience has made their setup simpler. Early purchases included lights, tripods, handheld stabilisers and a reflector.

"None of it got used," she admits.

At the weddings they covered, venue lighting and photographers' setups reduced their need for additional lights. Buying accessories was easier than knowing which ones would genuinely help.

Learning when to direct

Minimal equipment does not mean minimal effort. Salah finds directing trends particularly challenging, especially when camera-shy friends or relatives must coordinate their movements.

"When you watch them on your phone, they look so easy," she says.

The pair play reference videos repeatedly and use the audio to help participants find their timing. Capturing candid moments requires observation; producing a requested reel requires patient direction.

For now, this remains a side venture as Salah is a student, and Azad works full-time.

"We loved taking photos and videos, and we wanted to share that passion." For aspiring creators, her advice begins with listening to couples and people already doing the work.

"We live in an era where you can ask ChatGPT or Gemini to write an entire business plan, but weddings are deeply personal."

Understanding those expectations is central to the service they hope to provide. Before choosing a device or planning a reel, there is a more important question: what will this particular couple want to remember?

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Courtesy

#FASHION & BEAUTY

KAFTANS AND COORDS: Your Pre-Winter Wardrobe Guide

Between the last warm afternoon and the first chill of winter, there is a short golden window when the air is soft, the light is honey gold, and your wardrobe is begging for something that flows and flatters. This is your moment to embrace kaftans and coord sets before the woollens take over and the layers pile on.



Why settle for boring day-to-day outfits when you can opt for a statement print coord set? Bold patterns inspired by classic motifs, with crisp geometric repeats, give any set a standout focal point and keep the look fresh and polished. But if you are up for soft, playful, and effortlessly fresh apparel, pastel sets would do you a favour.

What makes these sets such an easy wardrobe staple is how wonderfully inclusive they are. Relaxed silhouettes and fluid fits move with your body instead of clinging to it, so you can feel comfortable and confident all around the clock.

Comfort, however, comes with flexibility, too. Matching pieces create a seamless, balanced look, while adjustable details like drawstrings, waist ties, and button fronts let you embrace the fit to suit you. Whether you are petite, curvy, tall, or somewhere in between, there is an ensemble out there that feels like it was made for you.

If you would rather drift than tailor, turn to long kaftans. Graceful and airy, they drape softly with every step, while the delicate minimal floral pattern adds a touch of sweetness without overpowering the clean, crisp base, giving it a fresh, understated charm that feels both vintage and elegant. Pair it with statement or pearl pieces for a relaxed resort-style outing or a casual brunch.



Styling them is also quite simple; let one element take the spotlight. If your kaftan or coord set carries a bold print, keep everything else simple with neutral footwear, understated jewellery, and a clean bag, so the pattern stands out. If you are wearing a solid shade, that is your cue to play: add accessories, a quirky belt, or a pretty scarf for a little extra personality.

As the season deepens, so can your palette, and deeper shades bring more drama. You can either be the mysterious woman in the room with a rich and enchanting evening blue kaftan or be the chic one with a cocoa-toned shade. Either way, these sets stay comfortable through long days and look just as good at a casual brunch as they do on a dinner date.

When the day calls for something lighter, short kaftans are the perfect mix of comfort and style. Fun, breezy, and made for easy days, the above-the-knee length keeps things light and playful, while the loose, flowy silhouette gives you plenty of room to move.

Finally, coffee and biscuit brown coord sets bring a cosy elegance to your wardrobe. The deep coffee tone feels rich and grounded, while the lighter biscuit shade adds a soft, creamy touch, together creating a look that is polished, versatile, and easy on the eye. These earthy neutrals pair beautifully with gold jewellery, tan sandals, or woven bags, and work just as well for relaxed café hopping as for a casual day at the office.







By K T Humaira
Photo : Adnan Rahman
Model : Mysha, Shakira
Wardrobe: Comfystyle
Styling & Fashion Direction: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Makeup: Sumon Rahat
Hair : Probina
Light : Selim Ahamed
Studio : Studio Crane

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Sometimes dressing up take hours of planning, while at other times, it needs nothing more than a good shirt and the confidence to pull it off. Whether you are meeting friends for a spontaneous adda, heading out on a date, or trying to look effortlessly stylish on an ordinary day, a well-fitted shirt rarely disappoints.

How to make *an* ORDINARY SHIRT LOOK extraordinary

Star LIFE Style

Roll up the sleeves, leave a button or two undone, and you have got a look that's equal parts relaxed and charming, without trying too hard. There is something about a classic shirt that a regular T-shirt does not quite manage. Perhaps it's the collar, the way the sleeves sit on your arms, or simply how it makes you look a little more put together.

The beauty of a shirt lies in its versatility. It can make you look like someone who has their life figured out at a formal gathering, while the very next day, the same shirt can accompany you to a roadside tea stall with friends. Few pieces of clothing can switch between such different settings without looking out of place.

For casual outings, comfort should come first, especially with Bangladesh's humidity refusing to give us a break. Lightweight cotton and linen-blend shirts are sensible choices for warmer days, allowing for better airflow and keeping the outfit from feeling unnecessarily heavy.

A relaxed fit also works particularly well when the plan involves wandering around the city, catching up with friends, or spending an afternoon at your favourite cafe. Pair an earthy brown or olive shirt with beige chinos or light-coloured gabardine trousers, and you have got an easygoing combination that looks thoughtfully put together.

If you prefer something more familiar, blue shirts are difficult to get wrong. Navy, slate blue, and lighter shades work with almost anything, from dark jeans to grey trousers. They also offer enough flexibility to suit different occasions without requiring an entirely different wardrobe.

For an everyday look, leave the shirt untucked, roll the sleeves just below the elbows, and finish with clean sneakers or loafers. A wristwatch can add character without making the outfit feel overloaded. Sometimes, the smallest details make the biggest difference.

Denim shirts, meanwhile, carry a slightly different personality. They have a rugged, laid-back appeal that works particularly well for weekend outings, casual meetups, and those days when looking too polished is not part of the plan.



Pairing a denim shirt with jeans might sound like an obvious choice, but it can be surprisingly stylish when done right. Opt for contrasting shades, such as a lighter blue shirt with dark indigo jeans, to keep the outfit balanced. For a change, black jeans, or khaki chinos can work equally well.

And if the day calls for something more sophisticated, there's no need to abandon the shirt altogether. Simply changing how you wear it can make a noticeable difference.

Tucking a shirt into a pair of tailored trousers instantly gives the outfit a sharper appearance. Add a leather belt, formal shoes, and a neatly arranged collar, and you are ready for an office meeting, a formal dinner, or an occasion that demands a little extra effort.

Darker colours are particularly good at creating this effect. Deep burgundy, navy, charcoal, and wine-coloured shirts have a certain richness that makes them suitable for evening occasions. Paired with black or dark grey trousers, they can create a striking appearance without the need for a blazer or a tie.

Of course, finding the right fit matters just as much as choosing the colour. A shirt that's too tight can look uncomfortable, while one that's excessively loose may lose its shape. Ideally, it should sit comfortably across the shoulders and chest, with enough room to move naturally.

And then there's the question of how many buttons to leave undone. For informal occasions, opening the top button or two gives the outfit a more relaxed personality. For formal settings, keeping things a little more buttoned up usually works better. It's a small adjustment, but one that can change the entire impression.

Perhaps the greatest attraction of shirts is that they do not need to shout for attention. You do not need flashy prints, oversized logos, or an expensive collection of accessories to make one work. A good colour, a comfortable fit, and the right pair of trousers can accomplish plenty.

Swagger is not always about wearing something extraordinary. Sometimes, it's about making something as ordinary as a shirt look exceptionally good.

By Mehdi Islam Mahi
Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model : Emon
Styling & Fashion Direction: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Wardrobe: Cats Eye
Makeup: Piash
Light: Selim Ahamed & Shakil
Location: The Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport





#FASHION & BEAUTY

A guide to AUTUMN STYLING in Dhaka





As soon as the temperatures take a slight dip, we Dhakaiites embrace al fresco dining with open arms. Having been cooped up indoors with heavy air conditioning all year long to beat the unbearable heat, we revel in these few weeks of relaxed moments outdoors, chatting our hearts out and enjoying ourselves.





For these settings, light layers are the order of the day; a cosy shrug on top of a sleeveless vest is perfect to stay nice and warm. Comfortable yet chic coord sets in hues of fawn, sage, rust and other similar shades reminiscent of Fall in the wild are ideal.

Long-sleeved sets are your best friend to keep you comfortable. A great option is a long duster jacket made of lightweight, organic wool, which is a natural insulator and keeps your body temperature nicely balanced. Another alternative is soft, breathable pashmina dusters and capes that make for fantastic transitional weather options.

While the days are still warm, evenings are cooler than usual; a soft jacket thrown over a T-shirt and jeans is perfect.

Do you want to feel elevated and styled still? Then choose pieces that are elegant and sophisticated.

A coord set in chic, lightweight merino wool in colours such as champagne, cognac, or burgundy will look fabulous for a night out. While very basic-sounding in theory, the magic lies in the fabric, which is luxe and elegant, elevating the whole outfit without trying too hard.

Faux suede looks very sophisticated in a European way. Pair your corduroy pants with a faux suede jacket that's comfortable and lightweight. Mix and match subdued colours such as espresso and latte.

Want to bring a pop of colour to your outfit? How about a basic navy shirt worn with marigold pants? Such an unexpected colour choice and yet so fashionable!

A ' 70s-inspired long straight-cut dress is a nod to the bohemian side of your personality! Channel that fashionista by choosing one in an earthy tone such as sand, rust or oak, preferably in a chic fabric and voilà!

And why should women have all the fun?

Men are spoiled for choice when it comes to dressing for Fall, with stylish coordinated sets in subdued tones like olive, espresso, rust and beige.

A full-sleeved shirt paired with gabardines is perfect for meeting friends after hours. Knit T-shirts are very comfortable and look dapper when worn with khakis or even jeans. They also come in coord sets, with drawstring flare pants. Pick a lightweight jacket or a cardigan to add a finishing touch to your dashing look.

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan
Photo: Caleo Collective



#FASHION & BEAUTY

How to effortlessly style SHADES OF BLUE

Elevating everyday outfits with shade-matching techniques is simpler than it seems. From pairing a royal blue kurta with crisp white contrast skirts to layering baby blue coatees over traditional panjabis, master these seamless colour combinations today.

Feeling blue might convey feeling sad, but in the fashion world, blue can actually be a remarkable shade. From an eye-catching electric cobalt to elegant royal blue or even a light turquoise, blue has the power to elevate even the simplest looks. Traditional and modern outfits in blue can bring out a dramatic flair and showcase the work of local artisans.





THE DIFFERENT HUES OF BLUE

It is truly the perfect shade for embroidery and creative designs. For a more intense look, cobalt and sapphire, with silver work, stand out the best. On the other hand, powder blue and turquoise bring a beautiful alternative of serenity where the colour works best with flowy materials.

If you want to express a little royal elegance, opt for a royal-blue kurta with a white printed skirt for contrast. Then, combine the look with a statement earring, floral bracelets, and flared sleeves. You can be sure that your outfit will capture attention.



THE VERSATILITY OF BLUE

One of the greatest things about blue is its versatility. It is a great colour to wear to traditional events such as weddings and other events of the like. But beyond that, it also looks casual and comfortable at a normal, everyday hangout. Blue pairs nicely with skirts and panjabis and even pants and blazers.

THE WOMEN'S BLUE

Pairing vibrant blue with white results in a very fresh-looking outfit. But another approach could be to pair turquoise and cream. Pink, lavender, and even green are also lovely choices that add a fun touch to a blue outfit. In fact, a combination of navy blue and beige offers a classic and subtle touch that people love!

The fabric and the accessories you choose also change the whole feeling. Satin and silk blue can add luxury and shine, especially in more traditional wear, while blue can feel very casual when paired with cotton and linen. Accessorised with gold hoops or a pearl necklace, the fabric stands out in any form of style.

THE MEN'S BLUE

Men can also style their blues in very different ways depending on the event. A baby blue embroidered coatee over a white panjabi with gold details adds the finishing touch to a festive outfit for weddings and parties. Paired with white pants and loafers, the look would be wonderful.

So, now that you know all about blue, try wearing it in different traditional and new ways that match your personality, and maybe you will make your loved ones feel not so blue!

By Samayla Mahjabin Koishy
Photo: Simily Haute Couture



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#FASHION & BEAUTY

The sun, the moon and the stories we wear







To the undiscerning eye, life can seem to be mundane, repetitive, and even clichéd. But, look more closely, you can see a sort of magic and uncanny working behind the scenes. It is those fleeting sense of wonder that artists try to capture and distill it in their crafts so that it can be cherished.

In this pursuit, nature is never at the bottom; rather it stands proudly on the forefront.

ART IMITATES LIFE

Have you ever wondered what the relationship between the sun, the moon, and the stars is?

Well, if one pays close attention to biology and the environment, they might find out that sunlight makes the rejuvenation of cells possible along with the trivia about how it regulates sleep, body temperature, hormones, and mood. Even sunflowers are known to follow the sun across the heavens during the daytime. A process called *heliotropism* among botanists.

The moon's pull is much more subtle, yet immensely powerful; the wider world feels her resonance. Corals spawn in synchronicity with the lunar cycles, and newly hatched sea turtles and other marine life reorient themselves towards moonlit horizons. While research indicates that lunar cycles exert an influence on human sleep architecture, the link between the lunar month and human biological rhythms is far more intertwined than most assume.

The stars above are also utilised by living beings. Migratory birds, including the most common pigeon, learn the layout of the night sky as fledglings and navigate by it, and beetles are known to orient themselves by the Milky Way. Humans, as perpetual pattern-seekers, has long done the same through mythic imagination, attributing our stellar canvas to archetypes such as hunters, bears, swans and scales; the constellations.

DEEP SYMBOLS OF THE FIRMAMENT

It is widely known that the science of astronomy evolved from astrology, and for the wider part of centuries these two branches of knowledge were indivisible. Where astrology



diverges starkly is in its claims to have influence over life down below; a notion that invites deeper contemplation.

If seen through the lens of esotericism and occult philosophy; the sun, the moon and the stars are neither mere collections of gas, fusion, fission or ice nor cosmic ornaments. But a secret sign language of the Universe. The sun is *Sol*, considered the principle of spirit, will and the consciousness itself. It also represents identity: only in light one can truly know himself.

The moon is *Luna*, its counterpart: receptive, cyclical and reflective. It shines on borrowed light; a fact ancient civilisation understood millennia before modern science formally charted it; fittingly is a symbol of the soul and intuition. The stars, meanwhile, are considered to align with fate and cosmic order. For the Pythagoreans and Neoplatonists, they were the visible trace of a divine geometry, a sort of silent shining lyrics sheet in the dark sky. Its alignments create those fantastical constellations to which we assign archetypes to.

WHERE THE SYMBOL MEETS THE CLOTH

For those very reasons, I think, is why these motifs endure in art and design. They are the oldest visual markers we have known to humanity, and when woven into the fabrics; it instinctively instills some sort of power and resonance. Garments threaded with these cosmic symbols carry the whole cosmology close to the skin: spirit, soul and destiny, each echoing a harmony that feels timeless.

Such a piece does not shout its meaning. It sits quietly on the shoulders, turning with the wearer as earth turns with the tides, and suggests a bespoke wonder.

By Mahabub Siddique Tajvee
Photo: Adnan Rahman
Model: Mashiat
Styling & Fashion Direction: Sonia Yeasmin Isha
Wardrobe: Rima Naz
Makeup: Piash
Light: Selim Ahamed & Shakil
Location: The Crowne Plaza Dhaka Airport

Hello, stranger! Why talking to unknown people makes my heart full

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Besides, some people may not be willing to open up to a stranger, but my personal experience says otherwise: people often find it surprisingly easy to open up to strangers because they know they may never meet again. They often share things that they cannot share with their own folks because of the fear of being judged by near and dear ones.

In 2017, I was flying alone from New York to Dhaka. On my connecting flight from Doha to Dhaka, a middle-aged Bangladeshi man sat next to me. He lived in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a tailor; he sewed school uniforms for children. I chatted with him the entire duration of the flight and learned what life was like for him



in Saudi Arabia, both good and bad. I was genuinely curious to learn about his life, which was very different from mine.

Nine years later, I no longer remember his name or what he looked like, but I can recall the conversation we had. Before our plane began to descend, he shared with me his phone number and asked me to connect with him if I ever visited Makkah for Umrah or Hajj. He said that he would be happy to help my family and me to the best of his ability. His gesture of kindness remains etched in my memory.

I often meet elderly women at cafés and grocery stores, and I compliment them on their hairstyles, purses, or dresses. No, I do not do it just for the sake of striking up a conversation; I genuinely mean what I say. I do it because I love seeing how people's faces light up upon hearing a kind word about their appearance. I did not know that one could give a compliment to a complete stranger; I picked it up after moving to the US, where giving compliments on a stranger's hair, smile, clothes, shoes, purse, or anything else is perfectly normal and socially acceptable. It instantly creates an unexpected connection between two people.

We share the same world, and yet, we are beginning to feel increasingly disconnected from one another. Talking to people I do not know is my way of spreading kindness, to make someone feel noticed and connected to the world around them. It is also my way of learning about others and connecting to the people who make up my community.

Every person has a unique story to tell, because no two people experience life the same way. And it is these unique stories that I am curious to hear, whenever and wherever life gives me an opportunity.

Representational Image — AI Generated

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Review outstanding debts. Reconsider past relationships. Resolving old obligations could open doors to future opportunities. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Reflect on family influences. Improve communication with loved ones. Understanding childhood patterns could strengthen your current relationships. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Pay attention to your wellbeing. Build sustainable health routines. Accept your physical limits while prioritising habits that genuinely support you. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



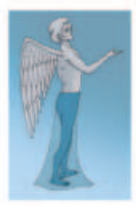
CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Prioritise rest and reflection. Avoid pushing beyond your limits. Creative projects may require patience before producing tangible results. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Address unresolved family matters. Strengthen your home foundations. Small, consistent changes can support your personal growth and confidence. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Review your professional commitments. Communicate carefully at work. Breaking unhealthy habits can improve your relationships and long-term wellbeing. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Reassess your financial priorities. Rebuild confidence after self-doubt. Trusting your abilities can help you reconnect with others. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Face unresolved fears. Reflect on past experiences. Understanding your darker emotions could help you approach challenges with greater wisdom. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Examine your personal values. Align your actions with your principles. Treat yourself compassionately while confronting uncomfortable truths. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Make room for fun. Balance ambition with relaxation. Enjoyable activities can restore the energy you need to pursue long-term goals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Double-check emails and important files. Stay flexible when plans change. Prioritise self-care with relaxing activities and comforting meals. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Recognise your progress. Reconnect with your long-term dreams. Clear goals and renewed hope can help you move forward confidently. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



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#TRAVEL

Where to eat in Sirajganj: Here are 7 local favourites

Sirajganj has a way of welcoming visitors through its food. From fresh fish from the Jamuna River and rich beef curries to warm pantuas and traditional pituli, the district offers a taste of its culinary heritage at every stop. Its old eateries, bustling railway-side shops, and beloved sweet stores make it a great destination for anyone looking to explore a place through its food.

Here are 7 places and dishes worth seeking out on your next food tour to Sirajganj.



GOLAM HOTEL, BERIBADH, ENAYETPUR

Started around two decades ago, the hotel has grown from a small establishment into a busy local favourite. Its popularity lies in its straightforward, filling food, particularly the fresh fish sourced from the Jamuna River.

Shrimp and beef are among the most popular dishes, but the menu also features kajoli and ayer, other seasonal fish, chicken and mashkolai dal. Prices start at Tk 150 for prawns, Tk 180 for beef and Tk 300 for ayer fish.

The scale of the operation is impressive, with the kitchen reportedly serving 100–150 kg of beef on weekdays, with demand rising over the weekends.



RONY MISTANNO BHANDER, KEZIRMOR, ENAYETPUR

Famous for its pantua, Rony Mistanno Bhander was another sweet stop on our route. Served warm, the pantua had a balanced sweetness that never felt overwhelming. At Tk 40 apiece, it was a treat we thoroughly enjoyed. The shop is also known for its curd, making it worth a visit for those who want to try more than one local speciality.

SHOLOP DOI GHOR, SHOLOP RAILWAY STATION BAZAR, ULLAPARA

Located beside Sholop Railway Station, this shop draws people for its ghol, alongside matha, doi and combinations of ghol with chira or muri. The ghol is the main attraction: sweet, refreshing and not overly thick. At Tk 30 a glass, it is an easy stop between meals.



BHAI BHAI NEHARI-HALIM, JAMTOIL RAILWAY STATION, KAMARKHANDA

At Jamtoil Railway Station, Bhai Bhai serves flavourful nehari and halim packed with spices. Both are rich, hearty options for anyone craving a filling meal. Prices start at Tk 50, while the special serving costs Tk 300!

SUBRATA SWEETS, SS ROAD, SIRAJGANJ SADAR

Subrata Sweets is one of the oldest and best-known sweet shops in the area.
It offers a variety of traditional sweets, including the unique 'obak shondesh'. Locals also recommend the shop for breakfast, where luchi, dal, sweets and a cup of tea make for a simple yet satisfying start to the day. However, breakfast items tend to sell out quickly, so it is best to arrive early in the morning.



KALPANA SWEETS, SS ROAD, SIRAJGANJ SADAR

Kalpana Sweets offers a simple yet delicious breakfast that locals love. The meal features hot, fluffy luchi, seasonal vegetable curry, and roshgolla. Simple, comforting and satisfying, the meal is made even better by a warm roshgolla to finish.

RATANKANDI HAAT, SIRAJGANJ SADAR

Pituli is a traditional meat dish of Sirajganj, usually prepared at home for family gatherings and special occasions. Several shops at Ratankandi Haat serve this local delicacy, but ask the locals, and they will point you towards the oldest shop in the area. With its homely flavours and deep-rooted culinary tradition, pituli is worth trying for anyone looking to explore Sirajganj's food culture beyond its famous sweets and popular eateries.

By Jawwad Sami Neogi
Photo: Jawwad Sami Neogi

