



Finery for the Festive Occasion

by Fayza Haq

THEY say that men make the best chefs and dress designers. That may be an opinion but the four young designers Zahir Hussain Newton, Kausar Mahmood, Tinku and Salim of "Karuj", who recently held an exhibition of their works at the Alliance Francaise, that was inaugurated by the well-known model and fashion designer Bibi were promising, going by their output.

There was a flaming red kurta on sale with crochet on the yoke and sleeves, which was for Tk 1,600. A white water print with silver embroidery on the yoke and sleeves, with tassels on the dupatta was for Tk 1,800.

A maroon velvet kameez and dupatta in maroon with fine gold embroidered work on the neck of the kameez and the dupatta cost Tk 3,000. A fascinating black print set with chess game motifs on the dupatta and kameez in black and cream aroused considerable interest. This three piece set was for Tk 1,400.

There was a kameez with a traditional embroidered front, using hand weave in black, blue and red stripes, with a cluster of cowries at the neck. This was on a white background. The sleeves were worked upon too. There was a set with Sindhi design, with gathers at the yoke. Large floral motifs in silver decorated the yoke and sleeves, and it cost Tk 1,500.

Paisley patterns in gold and green decorated an orange chiffon set, which had an ethereal look. The dupatta had gold and green tassels. Tiger print in black and white cotton with lace on the sleeves and yoke with rose motifs was another attractive display.

Something rather unusual was a red kurta and shalwar with pleats on the skirt and long churidar sleeves. The yoke was covered with thick white floral lace and this set cost Tk 1,500. A set of three had a screen block pattern with black entwining squares and this was available for Tk 900.



Examining a "kameez" at the sale

Analysing your Skin Type

YOU may be baffled by the number of skin types that are categorized by the cosmetics industry — normal, dry, sensitive, oily and combination. Which one are you? Skin type has a lot to do with the following factors, some of which are beyond your control:

Heredity

Along with the colour of your eyes and your hair, you will have inherited your skin type and condition from your parents. So, if your mother was blessed with beautiful skin, the chances are you will be too!

Climate

People who live in hot, dry climates need oily skin with extra sebum (the skin's natural oil) to lubricate and protect it, which is why Afro-Caribbean skin is oilier than European skin. Cool, moist climates result in fine, translucent skin, which is typified by the 'English rose' complexion. However, this has a tendency to become dry.

Age

Your skin will generally be oilier in your youth and will get

drier as you age, as sebum output and the skin's natural moisture content decrease.

Other Factors

Environmental factors, such as central heating, air conditioning and pollutants, bodily changes, such as periods, pregnancy, hormonal changes, the menopause and the contraceptive pill, as well as stress, emotional factors and diet can all have an effect on your skin type.

Sensitive Skin

Sensitive skin is fine and translucent, but it can develop lines and small surface veins. It can suffer redness and irritation when exposed to allergens in the air and to products such as perfume, lanolin, pollen or other pollutants. Keep it away from extreme weather and complex cosmetic products.

Oily Skin

Oily skin has a characteristic shiny look and is prone to develop spots. The increased sebum production is generated by the male hormone, testosterone, which is present also in small quantities in women. The skin is thicker and can have enlarged pores, with a tendency towards blackheads and blemishes. Avoid the temptation to use harsh

cleansers, which can overstrip the natural oils and hence overstimulate oil production. Gentle cleansing is best to maintain the skin's balance.

Combination Skin

Combination skin is most common between the ages of twenty and forty. The chin, nose and forehead, the T-zone of the face, contain more sebaceous glands and so are oilier than the rest of the face. The skin around the eyes, cheeks and neck will be dry. Areas other than the T-zone.

Remember that skin type is not static and your skin will generally become drier with time. If you suffered from spot-prone skin as a teenager, do not dismiss yourself as having oily skin, even though you may be well into your twenties or thirties. Most of all, be honest if you are to treat your skin correctly because products are specifically designed for the skin type stated. Examine your skin in good light, without any make-up, and preferably in a magnifying mirror. Circle the points that best match your skin. For example, if the most circles are in the combination skin column, your overall skin type is combination and you should use products made for combination skins.

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Normal skin is 'perfect skin'. It is soft, smooth and finely textured, does not flake, become dry or oily or develop spots. Babies and children usually have normal skin, but it needs attention, care, a good diet and the right beauty treatments to keep it that way.

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Dry Skin

Dry skin is close textured and fine, but it can feel tight, flake and is predisposed to developing facial lines. It should not be subjected to extreme weather conditions of hot and cold or to wind. Moisturizers to replace the lack of the natural skin lubricant, sebum, are essential for this skin type.

Skin Type

Skin type may change from oily to sensitive, or from normal to combination. You should keep an eye on your skin type, especially if you begin to develop adverse reactions or become sensitive to a particular product or ingredient.

Now let us see how you can further analyse your skin type.

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