

# LIVING

## A Fashion Show with Dare and Difference

by Raffat Binte Rashid

WITH a simple announcement, "The show begins," the first ever fashion show of international standard began here at Dhaka.

This grand gala display of the 1994 summer collection, basically highlighted the just held Batexpo '94. The apparel and garment industry has taken a pioneering role in the international arena to uphold our country. But winding up this year's exposition with a fabulous parade of handsome and gorgeous models, and with the magic touch of internationally famous model, choreographer and designer Bibi Russell, was something absolutely exclusive and new, explains Roop, the official agency for organizing the Batexpo Fashion Show '94.

"This live displays of garments manufactured here, was our idea, offered to BGMEA and with our own financing, we have, I believe, set a path for the future," says Yusuf Hassan, Creative Director, Roop.

Showing off our local textiles, designs and wears created a wave among the garment industry here and within their buyers. The buyers saw what we offered but with these material, what was actually possible might have been their dilemmas which was very fashionably answered, no doubt.

Using all 100 per cent Bangladeshi textiles, Bibi, the show's choreographer, designed the programme, with her young and amateur team of 17 models. Printed long skirts with a single coloured turtle neck tops was the first number. Nothing extraordinary but with Nakshi bags hanging at the back, simple *deshi* tops of crochet or embroidered on their head and *keds* made out of canvas, the models walked along the catwalk with such grace and elegance that for a split second it seemed as if you have switched on the Video Fashion on Star Plus.



"The show was brilliant and gorgeous, it is high street fashion you know. I mean anyone could go for it without being too westernized," says an excited spectator.

The designs were all casual and sports wear which definitely made this, a very fashionable summer, for the bold and young fashion conscious people.

Black trousers, could be of jeans or any cotton material, with starched, snow white shirts, might be open necked

or with bow-tie or may be a white T-shirt, is for the boys this summer. A more casual wear for a hot humid day could be printed shorts with tie and dye or *Batik* T-shirts of course the sunglasses should be on, is more for boys or men who prefers the relaxed mood. The leisure time is for my kid sister 'this seemed the theme of this men's number and Shanti, the youngest model seemed to play this role to perfection.

Walking or dancing, displaying new designs, prints or

All photographs taken by A K M Mohsin



checks, in front of so many unknown faces is not an easy task. But somehow these young girls and boys seemed to be totally at ease; rather enjoying thoroughly the whole affair and their laughter was definitely contagious. The entire show was conducted in style that has not happened by chance but with careful calculation and administration.

*Matalis* (the straw hat worn by farmers in the village), tops, were the show's main attraction. Black, white, brown, orange were the colours, floral prints and of course Grameen checks were the dominating features of the show with just a number dis-

playing 100 per cent Bangladeshi brocade. This brocade was used as *ghagra choli*, skirts and simple tops.

The belles of this show were of course Nadia and Nahid — two gorgeous looking models trained earlier by Bibi for her TV show. They show promising signs. But of course Mou's special number was an orange skirt with little traces of white and stone setting accessories. She whirled around the catwalk with her male colleague with utmost confidence and elegance in spite of her slight problem with her shoe. This problem she overcame with a little



trick. She danced away behind the screen fixed her shoes and all the time he stood at the corner as if she left him. With a dazzling smile she came back to him and they walked away in grace. Whether this was a part of the rehearsal or not, could simply not be understood she was, as always, perfect.

Bare bodied boys with Grameen Bank's *lungi*, *ganchha*, *topi*, *matal* and the girls in yellow, green, sari, depicted a happy rural Bangla scene along with *neem titia* a famous Bangla song.

Grameen checks were the main focus, the last number was totally of these checks. Maxis, overalls, slitted skirts, tops, minis, shorts, shirts were all done by these checks. They danced to the tune of "Buffalo Soldier, and Wonderful World" which rounded up the splendid show appropriately.

"This was the younger generations show, I wanted them to be projected," says Bibi. In fact, not seeing her on the catwalk modelling these clothes might have disappointed some but to others I could see Bibi in everything up there, her work was simply gorgeous," you could hear the excited spectators say.

"With only a three weeks time for rehearsal I am satisfied with the show," explains Bibi. "Things obviously could have been better," she commented. This show owes special thanks to Partex group for the catwalk, Ideas and Kumudini for the accessories, Meril, Yardley, Bala Shoe Co. Bangladesh Ltd and Grameen Udyog.

"We tried to make Bangladeshi outfits more acceptable to buyers outside," says Yusuf Hassan. "Initially the response was not very good but then we had no targets," he says. Roop believes in creative breaking of new grounds, he says. "Grameen check is what we stressed on, its quality is similar to Madras checks but now with this live displays they got more orders, it's definitely breakthrough in all respects," he says. This fashion show is a change for the better.

## Summer Delights Oh La La!

by Lavina Ambreen Ahmed

SUMMER in our country does not only represent abominable heat, unpredictable "kalbais-hakhi" storms and disastrous cyclones. It also has some advantages, like the availability of summer fruits in abundance.

As spring fades away and summer takes over, some subtle changes are evident in the environment. All the fruit trees that looked dull and forlorn in the winter days, seem to spring back to life, bear blossoms and announce their existence once again.

Once upon a time there were quite a few orchards in the cities but town life and industrialization changed all that. Plus, the tall buildings constructed everywhere to accommodate the ever growing population have replaced those acres of lush green lands. But today, there are still many huge fruit trees scattered here and there or well maintained in someone's garden.

By this time of the year, the blossoms usually mature into small green fruits, peeping from the high branches of the trees. Soon they will grow in size, change colour and be ready to be plucked.

The markets have not yet flooded with summer fruits, but within a few weeks or so, there will be fruit sellers and vendors at every street corner displaying various kinds of mangoes, litchis, pineapples, watermelons, guavas, berries, and many more.

Each country or region has its own exclusive variety of fruits that only grow in its own soil and climate. A sub-tropical country, where summer dominates the other five seasons, Bangladesh too, has her own special kinds of fruits, that are available only in some of the

neighbouring countries like India.

Thousands of fruits are sold each year at the fruit section of New Market 'Katcha Bazar' as well as all the other bazars in the country. Throughout the city there are some fruit stores set up in personal initiation.

Placed neatly in their baskets, or shelves, these delicious looking fruits seem to call us and demand our attention. For the average person, it is hard not to get lured by the pleasant sight of all those succulent looking golden-green mangoes or litchis, or the ripe melons, or maybe, the juicy guavas and look the other way. Along with the summer fruits, there are always the bananas, grapes, coconuts and some other fruits that can be found all the year round. Keeping up with the changing seasons, the sellers compete with one another and rush to their village homes or to their suppliers to fill their empty baskets, at the arrival of each new season. One fruit seller says, "Selling fruits is a 12 months job for most of us." In summer it's the mangoes and litchis that gets the top priority, while in winter it's the apples and oranges that sell the most.

Then, there are those sellers better known as "wallas" who go from door to door or from one area to another and sell their items. With baskets on top of their heads, they shout out their wares in a peculiar tone (why they use that tone is quite a mystery), trying to attract their customers. Often they disturb the luxurious siestas of

the city-dwellers and ruin the even tenor of a serene afternoon.

The "wallas" hardly get to sell the fruits at a fixed price and as a result, haggling goes on. The sellers try to convince the buyers that their fruit are the best in the market. These "wallas" often manage to fool the customers, making them believe that they got a good bargain, until a bite of one of those supposedly sweet and ripe fruits proves them wrong. Meanwhile, the shrewd sellers secretly grin, glad to get rid of their left over fruits and boast about their successful deal to their friends.

It is a scientifically proven fact that fruits are one of the most nutritious, among all the food items we consume each day. A lot of these fruits contain many types of vitamins that help in keeping us fit and revives lost energy.

Doctors often advise their patients to eat fruits, specially during the recuperating period. People often bring fruits to visit their ailing near and dear ones, instead of the customary "Horlicks" these days. Fruits have been used to make scrumptious dishes for ages now. Open any good recipe book and you're bound to find at least one or two recipes that needs fruits as one of its main ingredients.

In the summer time housewives prepare jams and jellies from mangoes, guavas, pineapples and wood apples and preserve them. Also, watermelon, pineapple and mango juices are very popular with people of all ages. On a hot day, there is

nothing so refreshing as an ice-cool fruit drink. Also, the raw flesh of the jackfruits, our national fruit, is used to make a kind of well-liked dish. Women have been known to pass on their mother's or grandmother's recipes for mouth watering preservatives and pickles to generations now. Yummy fruit salads and fruit cocktails too can be prepared from these fruits.

Food industries in our country have invested money in producing and marketing jams, jellies, fruit juices, canned fruits and made quite a profitable business out of it. These products are also exported.

There are many stories, poems, rhymes and myths that centre around our summer fruits. Even our great poet, the Nobel laureate Tagore, mentioned our precious summer fruits in some of his writings.

Summer fruits are a delight to the Bangladeshese. However having too many of these can be harmful as the sugary substance of some fruits, mainly the mango might cause tooth decay. The other problem is these fruits, being quite expensive, are often beyond the reach of common people. Maybe we ought to think of improving and expanding our own fruit production, rather than importing them from India and make these fruits easily available to all the masses.

For most of us, summer in our country is quite unthinkable without the juicy summer fruits.

LOOKS that last cannot be slipped over the head with party clothes. Real beauty will only be found by constant attention to our individual needs. The skin especially will respond to the right treatment over the years. A regular routine of beauty care worked out for your own particular skin type will bring ever-increasing rewards as time goes by, for a lovely skin is as much a delight to the eye at sixty as it is at seventeen.

**Dry Skin**  
This type of skin has a tendency to become flaky and harsh, and to wrinkle early if neglected. On the other hand it is usually fine in texture and respond well to regular care with a suitable nourishing cream.

At bedtime, make-up should be removed with cleansing cream, before washing with soap and water, choosing a really mild, superfatted bran of soap, and avoiding extremely hot or very cold water. Stimulate the skin by rubbing gently with a face flannel. Next, massage for about ten minutes with a rich skin food or night cream.

In the morning, wash with soap and water again, or use a cleansing milk if your skin is particularly dry. Next, tone by patting with a wad of cotton-wool wrung out in cold water and sprinkled with few drops of a mild skin tonic or freshener. For quick cleansing during the day use a cleansing or complexion milk on cotton-wool.

A foundation with a creamy base is a suitable choice, but added help can be given by using an untinted emollient or a moisturising cream beneath your powder foundation. This will protect the skin and help

## A Lovely Skin

by Sylvia Saleem

to give it a dewy fresh appearance.

**Greasy Skin**  
Scrupulous care over cleansing and toning is essential to counteract a greasy condition and to keep the skin fresh and fine textured. At bedtime, remove make-up with liquefying type of cleansing cream, then wash with soap and water. Scrub the skin gently when washing with a face flannel or a soft brush. Rinse off the soap with plenty of clear, warm water, then have a final splash with cold.

If the skin is showing signs of wrinkles or surface dryness, you should now massage for a few minutes with a light nourishing cream or one containing astringent oils. Any unabsorbed cream should be removed with a tissue after the massage session, and the skin toned by patting briskly in an upward and outward direction with a pad of cottonwool wrung out in cold water and sprinkled with astringent lotion.

In the morning, after washing, use astringent lotion again in the same way. A greasy skin needs to be washed frequently and the make-up renewed at least twice a day. If washing with soap and water is inconvenient, however cleanse with a cleansing lotion or milk designed to have a slightly bracing effect on the skin.

A weekly face pack treatment will give further help in refining and toning the skin and keeping the pores clear of impurities.

Rich, fried, greasy, and highly spiced foods are never good for the skin, and should certainly be avoided where there is a greasy condition. See that you eat plenty of fresh foods-green vegetables, fruit, and salads.

**Combination Skin**  
This term describes a common condition where the skin is partly dry and partly oily. Usually the cheeks are dry and flaky and the nose, chin, and centre of the forehead areas are greasy with a tendency to shine easily.

The treatment should be as for the dry skin, but avoiding the use of skin food on the greasy areas. Here scrupulous cleansing and toning should be carried out according to the instructions for the greasy skin, i.e. dab them thoroughly with astringent lotion both at night and in the morning before applying your powder foundation.

A liquid cream foundation is best for the combination skin, but if the greasy areas still tend to gleam a drop or two of anti-shine lotion could be used between two coats of face powder.

**Sallow Skin**  
The beauty routine should be planned according to the instructions given for your skin type, but preparations should be chosen with view to their whitening properties. A weekly face pack with a mild bleaching action will give further help in lightening and brightening the skin.

All skins reflect our health and diet, but when the complexion is sallow and muddy it is more than ever important to

see that plenty of fresh fruit, green vegetables, and salads are eaten. Plain cold water should also be drunk liberally between meals. Be sure to guard against constipation and take plenty of exercise in the fresh air.

A warm peach-toned make-up and a lipstick with a hint of blue in it will help to give a fresher and brighter appearance to a sallow skin.

**How to Massage Your Face**

A massage a day keeps the wrinkles at bay! But remember, please, to treat your complexion with the consideration it deserves. It is the only one you'll ever have — so cherish it.

Haphazard massage can do more harm than good, but you may practice the movements shown on the facing page, with perfect safety, provided you remember to be gentle, though firm. Massage without cream is like washing without water, so use your skin food if your skin is dry, or a greaseless cream if it is oily.

A good idea is to warm the cream before you begin to massage as this makes it soft and easy to spread and so avoids any "pull" on the skin.

Inclusion of your neck in this daily massage is a "must" to avoid having a sharp difference in the texture of well-cared-for facial skin and a neglected neck.

Double chins, too, will be kept at bay far easier if the neck and chin are firmly massaged a little each day.

One last word of advice. While you are massaging do relax!

Do each movement six times if you can find the time, but even once a day is better than not at all and the results are well worth the effort.