

Closeup

WHAT'S IN!

Short cuts: Don't sweat it out with long hair this summer. Ask your stylist to snip the strands and let the breeze reach your neck.

Boring and dominating boyfriends: Even if your biological clock is ticking away and your mom is desperate to marry you off, it's still not reason enough to stick on in love hell.

Closeup

What's out!

Lifestyle



AARONG BANGLADESH FASHION WEEK

THE end of the weekend marked the beginning of the first ever Fashion week in Bangladesh. Presented by Tara in collaboration with Siemens, DHL and RC Cola, the Aarong Bangladesh Fashion Week was hosted at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon and the event was managed by Momentum. The show was organized by the Bangladesh fashion Alliance in an effort to establish a platform for Bangladeshi designers in the international market.

The two day event was to showcase the designs of eight Bangladeshi and six Indian designers and day one started off with six designers: four from Bangladesh and two from India.

The show started off with an inaugural announcement from chief guest Ms. Rokeya Rahman. The first designer to be showcased was our very own Maheen Khan. Her line was a blend of the 60's and 70's and this appropriately nicknamed 'mixties' line was done mostly in red, white and black with shells and button adornments that perfectly conveyed the Rangamati inspiration from which the collection was derived.

Khan's tri-colour line was followed by the vibrant colours of Indian designer Anamika Khanna's line. She is strictly conformist in a non-conformist way and her line blended an ethnic Indian look with a touch of the West in it. Her line gave the word 'trendy' a whole new definition.

The third line in suit was Andes' Fusion by Aneela Haque. Also done in solids and earth tones, this line boldly boasted hieroglyphics and

scriptures in print giving the line a trendy as well as artsy look.

Aneela Haque's Fusion was followed by a more ethnic and highly traditional line by Kumudini that boasted intricate works of Nakshi Kantha, Embroidered Quilt, and Jamdani. The enthusiastic response to this extremely Bangladeshi line simply emphasised the fact that our designs would certainly succeed on international ramps.

Kiran Uttam Ghosh, an Indian designer came out with her label Kimono after Kumudini. The simple yet opulent line spoke volumes about how and why this designer was able to extend her label beyond the borders of India. After the show case of Kimono the platform was given to renowned writer and columnist Shobha De who spoke a few words on the necessity of such an event and its inevitable success.

This was followed by the last line of design by Rina Latif. This vibrant line boasted muslin, silk and chiffon with exquisite tapestry work and intricate embroidery. Dazzling to the eyes, this line could only be described with one word: extravagant. Fit for royalty Latif's line reflected an emphasis on detail and perfection.

The second and last day of the Aarong Bangladesh Fashion Week began with the same enthusiasm that had encircled the audience on the first day. The second day of the event was to feature eight designers: four from Bangladesh and four from India.

The show started off with a few words of encouragement from Shobha De and then began with a rural theme with Bibi Russell's

collection. Bibi Russell's Fashion for Development and 'Save the weavers and help revive their dreams' was truly reflected in her collection which featured hand woven Bangladeshi textile mainly done in white, off-white and beige. Complete with a live orchestra that played and sang Bangla songs, Bibi's models came out dancing to the tunes making her presentation unique amongst all the collections. Bibi's collection was highly appreci-

DAY 1 - PARTICIPANTS

Maheen Khan
Anamika Khanna
Aneela Haque
Kumudini
Kiran Uttam Ghosh
Rina Latif

ated and in the end guided my Indian supermodel Zulfi Sayeed, a smiling Bibi came out to take her bow.

The second collection in suit was 'Mysticism of Calligraphy' by the Satya Paul label that found inspiration in ancient scripts and calligraphy. This range of sarees and apparel boasted bold fluid lines rich in classic beauty. The vibrant colours, the intricate embroidery and the occasional swish of Chinese calligraphy gave this line a truly sophisticated look and created a sense of elegance amongst the models wearing them.

'Mysticism of Calligraphy' was followed by Kuhu's 'Wearable Art' that boasted animal and floral prints along with tie-dye. The

Japanese kimono and fan were inspirations for the men's line and Kuhu's attempt to dress each model like a piece of sculpture was successful. Painted fans, flowers, and Japanese figurines on the outfits gave the audience something to feast their eyes on while making each model look exquisite.

'Wearable Art' gave away to a more traditional collection by Lita S. Chowdhury who aimed at taking Jamdani and Tangail fabrics to new

DAY 2 - PARTICIPANTS

Bibi Russell
Satya Paul
Kuhu
Lita S. Chowdhury
Mona Pali
Abhishek Gupta
Nandita Basu
Aarong

heights. A designer who makes each piece as 'one of a kind' this collection created a canvas on these sarees and embellished them with sequins, beads and embroidery. A highly commendable collection, Lita S. Chowdhury's efforts were highly applauded.

The fifth collection displayed the work of the only duo-designers of the event: Mona and Pali. The duo's collection featured prêt and couture rich in textures, prints and embroidery. They also boldly mixed embellishments in ceramic, cord, terra cotta, mouli, ropes, wooden and shellac buttons and gauze to create a trendy but ethnic look.

Mona-Pali's ethnic-trend look left the floor to Abhishek Bachchan and his wild retro line that truly left it's

mark on the event. From the Afro hairstyles of the models to the groovy feel of the outfits, this collection was all about making a wild statement.

When the retro line that commanded the ramp left, Nandita Basu's seductive collection took over trapping the audience's attention in a whirlpool of black that dominated her line. A biker girl meets businesswomen juxtaposition, this collection mixed leather with Lycra to create what could only be called captivating.

As the event boiled down to an end Aarong finally came making its mark. The true spirit of Aarong was reflected in its collection that contained a mixture of sarees, salwar-kameez, fatuas, and punjabis complete with Aarong's footwear and accessories. This line successfully presented a portfolio of all Bangladeshi fabrics. Marking the end of the show, as all the models lined up on stage, Aarong's design team came out to take it's bow and mark the end of the show.

With Indian supermodels such as Zulfi Sayeed, Noyonika Chatterjee and Tapur; Bangladeshi models such as Tupa, Asif and Sumon; well-spoken presenters; and excellent ramp music, the Aarong Bangladesh Fashion Week was an extravaganza that incessantly emphasized one thing: Bangladesh is ready to make its mark on the international Fashion World.

By Tahiat-e-Mahboob
Photo credit
SK. Enamul Haque
Tahiat-e-Mahboob

