



ANANNYA EID FASHION
CONTEST

43 boutique houses receive awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 43 boutique houses received awards at the award giving ceremony of Anannya Eid Fashion Contest-2005 at a city restaurant yesterday.

The Abru Crafts won nine awards for its collections and received the Best of the Year 2005 award.

The Anannya, a fortnightly magazine for women, has been organising the contest since 1999 to promote local fabrics.

This year a total of 150 boutique houses took part in the competition.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, former advisor of a caretaker government, gave away crests and certificates to the winners as the chief guest.

Congratulating the awardees, she said the quality of local fabrics is quite high, yet the imported fabrics have more of a demand in the country, which is a real problem for local entrepreneurs.

"The country has achieved success in the field of empowerment and advancement of women. The latest report of the World Economic Forum ranked Bangladesh 39th while India's position is at 53 in terms of women's empowerment," she said.

Women have also proved that they could work sincerely and with great commitment if given the opportunities, she added.

Even the rural women changed their lifestyle through their work, she said and urged all to use and promote local fabrics.

Speaking as the special guest, Bibi Russell, a famous fashion designer, appreciated the initiatives of the Anannya to promote local products and encourage the entrepreneurs.

Tasmima Hossain, editor of the Anannya, presided over the ceremony. Dr Anisur Rahman, Dr Maleka Begum, Kazi Madina, Maleka Khan and Dil Monwara Monu, executive editor of Anannya, were also present.



Winners of Anannya Eid Fashion Contest pose with the guests at the award giving ceremony at a city restaurant yesterday. Sitting from left are Bibi Russell, Rokia Afzal Rahman, Tasmima Hossain and Maleka Khan.

'Awareness among women about HIV/Aids has increased to 60 pc'

BSS, Dhaka

The rate of awareness among the females about HIV/Aids has increased to 60 percent in the last four years in Bangladesh.

According to a recent survey of National Institute of Population Research and Training (Niport) on HIV/Aids nearly 60 percent of the participants of the survey proved to be well aware of healthcare factors about HIV/Aids in 2004 which was only 31 percent in 2000.

In the case of male, the awareness level doubled in eight years with 34 percent in 1996 and 78 percent in 2004.

Nearly 37 percent of married women, 45 percent of married men and 57 percent of unmarried men know that use of condom is a way to avoid contracting HIV/Aids, it said.

The recent survey shows a clear improvement over the results of the 1999-2000 BDHS (Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey) where only 16 percent of married women and 18 percent of married

men cited condom use as a way to avoid HIV.

The survey said among all male and female respondents, it is encouraging that 30 percent of women and 50 percent of men correctly know two or more ways of avoiding HIV.

The survey observed that education is positively associated with knowledge about HIV/Aids. It ranges from 71 percent among those who have completed primary school while 98 percent of women who have completed secondary education.

As part of the awareness programme, television is the most important source of information about HIV/Aids, 45 percent of women and 68 percent of men are of the opinion that television is a major source of their information about HIV/Aids.

The survey also revealed that 47 percent of the women respondents and 54 percent of male respondents have never discussed HIV/Aids prevention methods with their spouses.

