

FASHION WITHOUT FRONTIERS Dia Asiana launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dia Asiana, a magazine for the Asian women, was formally launched at a gala evening in the city yesterday to boost the growing fashion trends in the country.

The high-end magazine, a joint venture between Dia House of Fashion Ltd and I and I Media Ltd (UK), will soon appear on the newsstands.

Dia Asiana is the Bangladesh edition of 'Asiana' and 'Asiana Wedding' magazines, which have been enjoying a healthy popularity in the UK owing to the bold statement it makes for women of today.

The magazine will cover issues like lifestyle, interiors, textile news, Asian haute cuisine, products and other handy tips for the readers.

After the launch, the magazine organised an extravagant fashion event styled as 'Fashion without Frontiers' -- an international standard fashion show -- coupled with equally apt musical performances.

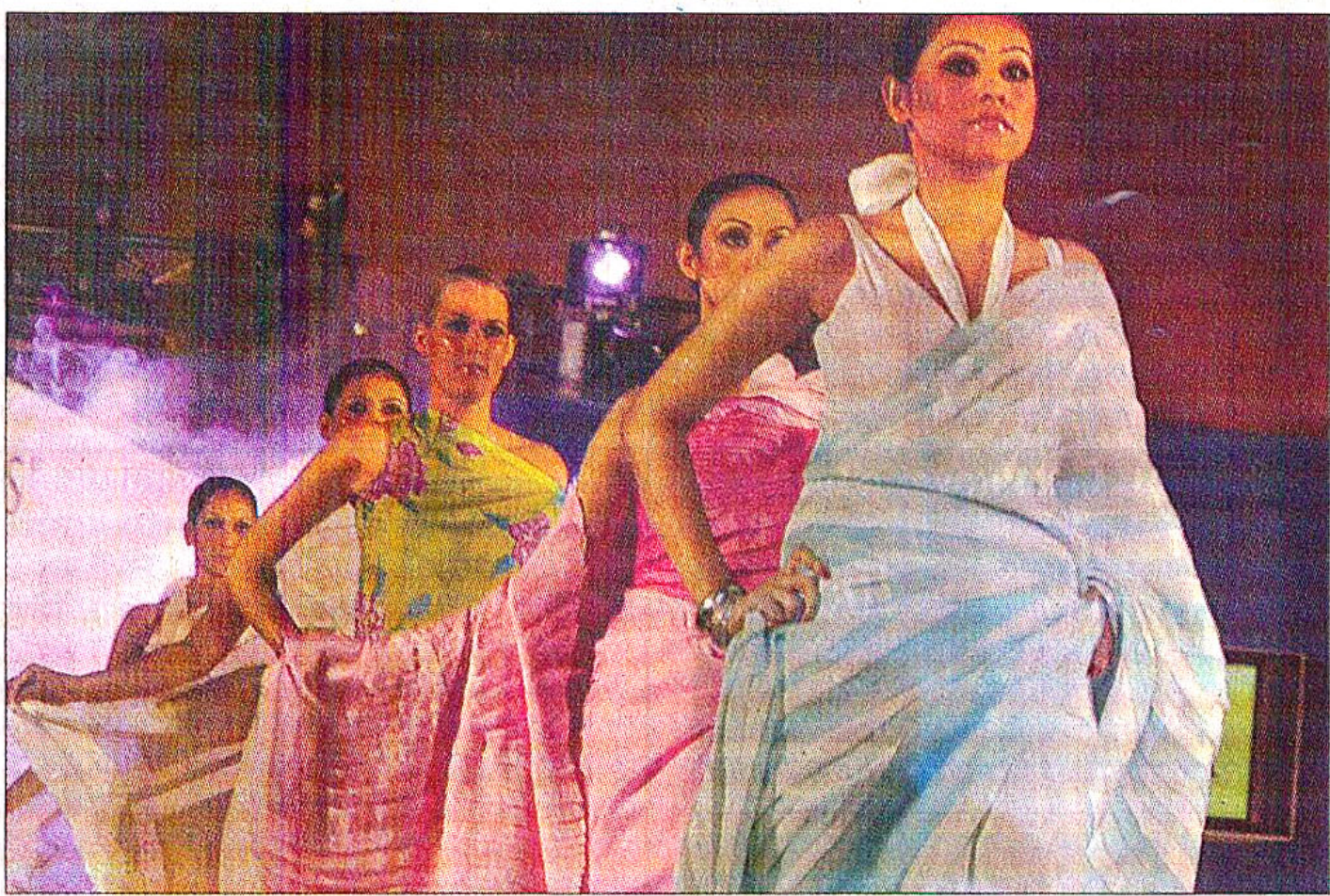
Foreign Adviser Iftekhar A Chowdhury inaugurated the fashion show at the Plenary Hall of Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and the participants were well-established local and global brand names and designers: Desigo by Roxana Salam, Wearable Art by Kuhu, By Deshi by Tootli Rahman, Banglar Mela by Emdadul Haque, Sozpodor by Symon and Tenzing, Tanjim at Ecstasy by Tanjim and Tangail Sharir Kutir by Monira Emdad.

At the gala event, Monira Emdad of Tangail Sharir Kutir, who has supported and promoted the weaving community, was honoured with 'Lifetime Achievement Award' by the Bangladesh Design Council.

Textiles Adviser Geetara Safiya Choudhury gave away the award to Monira.

To take the event to next level, there were musical performance by Habib, and the MC for the evening was Laila, who also entertained the guests with some English hits.

New Jarwa House, Media 8 Events, GMG Airlines, Riz Events, Radio Foorti, Scepter, Acer and Neptune were the partners of the event.



Models sashay down the catwalk at a fashion show styled as 'Fashion without Frontiers' at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

2 deals signed to install solar home systems

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank yesterday signed two deals with Grameen Shakti and IDCOL for installation of Solar Home Systems in Bangladesh with the objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the use of clean energy.

World Bank signed the two 'Emission Reductions Purchase Agreements' as trustee for the Community Development Carbon Fund (CDCF), says a World Bank press release.

Under these agreements Grameen Shakti and IDCOL can claim benefits for carbon emission reduction for about 970,000 and 227,000 solar-home systems installed in Bangladesh respectively.

World Bank Country Director for Bangladesh Xian Zhu signed the deals with Dipal Chandra Barua,

Managing Director of Grameen Shakti, and M Ehsanul Haque, Chief Executive Officer of IDCOL.

"The objective of these two Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects is to contribute to sustainable development through the provision of renewable solar electricity to households not connected to the electricity grid and thereby reduce the greenhouse gas emissions by displacing kerosene and diesel use for lighting and off-grid electricity generation," said the release.

The key components of the solar-home systems (SHS) include photovoltaic panels, fluorescent tubes, batteries, installation kits and connections.

These projects will contribute to the sustainable development of Bangladesh with a particular emphasis on the rural population, which is generally poorer.

The CDM revenue will further accelerate the spread of SHS through assisting Grameen Shakti and IDCOL to cover the risks involved in providing micro-finance to the end-users.

Less than 40% of households are electrified in Bangladesh. This is one of the lowest electrification rates in the world. This programme will, therefore, help government efforts to provide electricity to all households and to promote sustainable development. The photovoltaic technology is clean and safe and reduces the emission of greenhouse gases, it is stated.

The World Bank country chief said Bangladesh is on the list of the major vulnerable countries being affected by climate change caused by global warming.

"All concerned will have to remain alert in taking necessary measures to withstand the catastrophe," Xian Zhu told the signing ceremony.

Qatar labour minister due on Jan 6

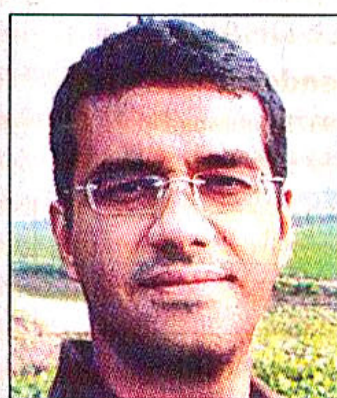
UNB, Dhaka

Labour Minister of Qatar Dr Sultan Bin Hasan Al Dhabib Al Dosari will arrive in Dhaka on January 6 to discuss import of more manpower from Bangladesh.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told journalists this yesterday. He said Qatar is one of the countries where Bangladeshi expatriates have employment opportunity.

During his two-day visit Dr Sultan will explore increase of manpower import from Bangladesh. His visit will also contribute to enhancement of political and economic ties between the two brotherly countries, said the adviser.

He said the government pursued a policy of seeking new markets for export of manpower and endeavouring to expand the existing ones. Qatar minister's visit is in congruous to the policy of Bangladesh.



Nafees wins Academy of Motion Picture award

Nafees Bin Zafar, a Bangladeshi software engineer, has been awarded the 'Scientific and Engineering Award' by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, says a press release.

The Academy Board of Directors has voted to confer the award on Nafees, Doug Roble and Ryo Sakaguchi of Digital Domain for the development of the fluid simulation system.

The feature film work of Nafees includes screen credits on 'Stealth', 'Flags of Our Fathers', and 'Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End'. He is a software engineering graduate from the College of Charleston with many professional credentials and recognition in his area of expertise.

The award will be handed over to the winners at the Scientific and Technical Awards Dinner and Ceremony during the Oscar Season at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, on February 9, 2008.

Nafees is the son of Lt Col (Retd) Zafar Bin Bashir, a partner at Marcum & Kliegman, and Nafeesa Zafar who reside in Long Island, New York. He is the nephew of Syed Mainul Hossain, architect of the National Memorial and a recipient of Ekushey Padak, and grandnephew of artist Mostafa Monwar.

Liberation War Museum closed till Dec 24

Liberation War Museum will remain closed from today to December 24 on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha, says a press release.

The museum will open on December 25 after the Eid holidays.



With Eid-ul-Azha only a day away, buyers through a cattle market at Naya Bazar near Buriganga bridge in the city yesterday to buy sacrificial animals.

PHOTO STAR

পবিত্র ঈদের অনাবিল আনন্দ
থাকুক সারা বছর জুড়ে
স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড সাদিক

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড সাদিক আপনাকে জানাচ্ছে পবিত্র ঈদের অকৃত্রিম শুভেচ্ছা

কোরবানির ঈদ আপনার কাছে উৎসব আর ত্যাগের মহিমা, পারম্পরিক অনুভূতি, বিশ্বাস ও ত্যাগের সম্মিলনে জীবনের এক অনন্য আয়োজন। বছরের বাকি দিনগুলোতে এই পবিত্র দিনের শিক্ষাকেই আপনি বয়ে নিয়ে চলেন জীবনের সব ক্ষেত্রে। স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড সাদিক শ্রদ্ধা জানায় আপনার এই মূল্যবোধকে।

আমাদের কামনা, কোরবানির ঈদের অনাবিল আনন্দ আর নিবিড় অনুভূতি ছড়িয়ে যাক সবার মাঝে।

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড চার্টার্ড সাদিক সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য যোগাযোগ করুন আমাদের ২৪ ঘণ্টা কল সেন্টারে ৮৯৬১১৫১, ০১৮১৯ ৩৯৯৯৯৯ এবং ইসলামিক ব্যাংকিং সেন্টারে ৯৮৯৮৮১২ নম্বরে।

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