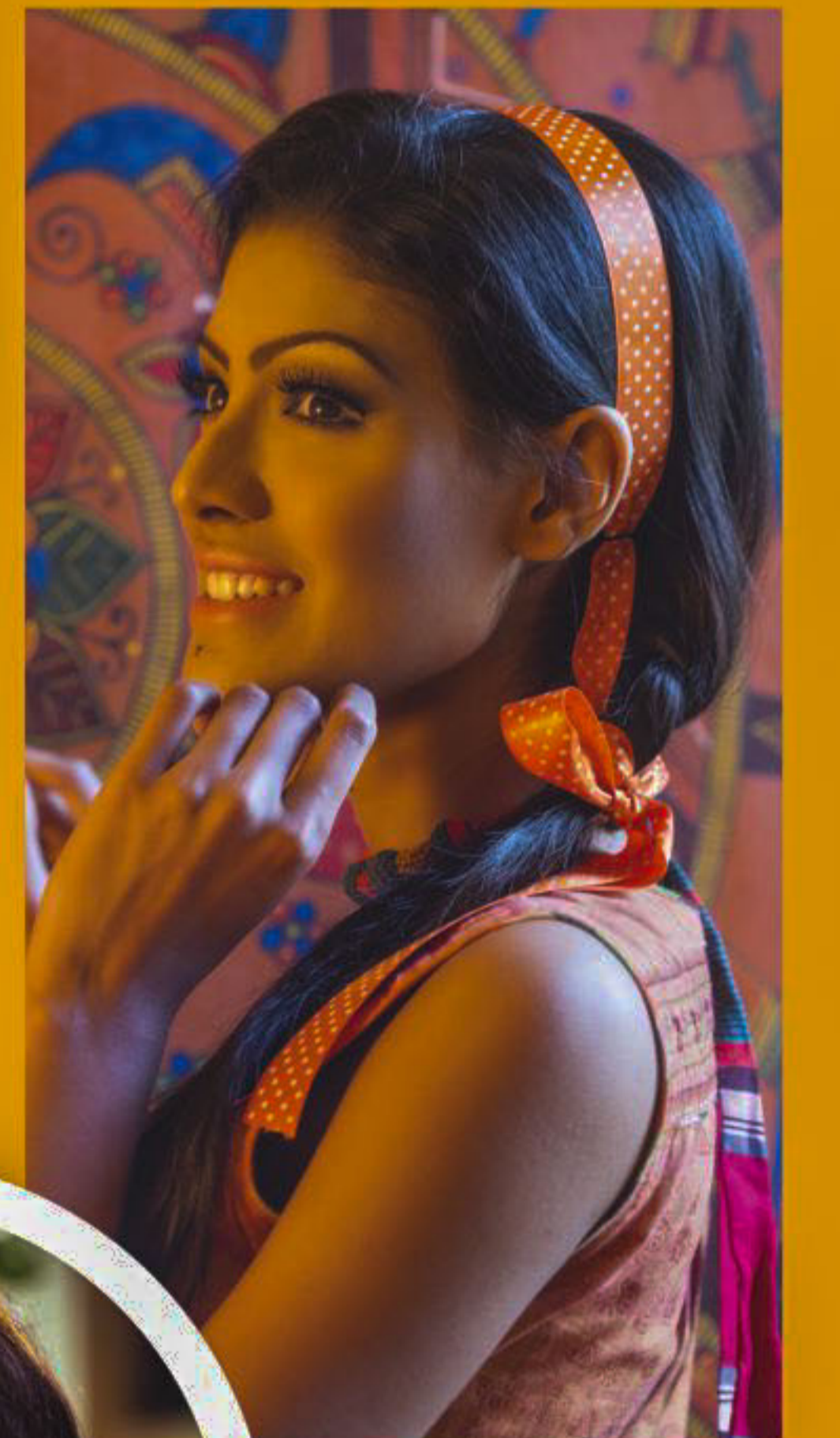


A rainbow for your tresses!

For those of us belonging to the fairer sex category, it wasn't that too long ago that we shared a certain affinity with ribbons. Whether it was two pony-tails slung over the shoulder or a fish-tail braid, it was only expected to top off the look with a ribbon nicely holding the hair-do in place. The ribbons didn't serve just their basic purpose; they were the cherry on top, gift-wrapping your look tidily. But once you left school, along with so many memories and loose chits of messages on paper, the hair ribbons also found themselves in the dusty forgotten corners of our shelf space and our minds. This week though, Star Lifestyle brings ribbons back; relive your school days, reinvigorate yourselves and once more, get your tresses done, tastefully.



It is a fact universally known that women of Bengal love to flaunt their thick, dark hair. Since time immemorial much has been done to enhance its allure by wearing it in different styles, some more complicated than others. And accessories of all manners have been used to take things to a different level.

A fragrant garland of jasmine coiled around a thick plait has inspired poetry, so has the ubiquitous Haath Khopa, adorned graciously with an ornate hairpin often fashioned with precious metals such as gold and silver.

For young women traipsing on the cusp of womanhood, ribbons were the accessory du jour back in the days. Many of us might recall seeing sepia photographs of our older cousins, mothers, and aunts sporting hairstyles adorned with these simple yet stunning trimmings.

These ribbons, made of satin were a teenager's staple, in a variety of bright, cheerful hues. Often times girls would match the color of their ribbons with their saris or dresses, and the lucky one with the largest collection

would be the object of every girl's envy!

Kola Beni, which was an almost mandatory braid worn by schoolgirls, would have either black or white ribbon, owing to the austerity and disciplined style of school uniforms back in the 70's and 80's.

A lot of times older women would prefer Jori Feeta, a ribbon made with sparkling threads and yarns, to embellish braids and buns worn to special occasions. Ribbons were widely worn and loved by young women as well as older ones all over, and every area would have its own Feetawala - a vendor going door to door and selling these desirable trimmings to womenfolk of every household.

In a time as now when hair accessories are more popular than ever, ribbons can be worn to bring Bengali wholesomeness to one's look. Adding a few strands of colour coordinated ribbons to one's hairstyle will definitely create quite a stir. If you are willing to give ribbons a go, bear in mind the cardinal rule of fashion: nothing comes back the same way. So ditch the stuffy Kola Beni and wear ribbons in your

sideswept fish tail braid. You could try teaming two different colours of ribbons together for a relaxed, easygoing vibe. This is a great option for an everyday hairdo. The usual ponytail could be elevated using wide ribbons tied in a bow, either at the nape of the neck or at the top. Thinner ones can be intertwined with side braids, segueing onto a bun at the bottom.

Long braids coiled with sparkling ribbons can be a fabulous option for Holud, Mehendi or sundry wedding festivities. It will also look great for Pohela Boishakh or Pohela Falgun. You could twist them by the side with thin sections of hair, secure with bobby pins and leave the length of your hair loose.

Also ideal for garden parties and picnics when your heart desires a simple yet whimsical hairdo, ribbons are rather versatile for a variety of events. Small pearls or beads will work wonderfully as further embellishments, as will flowers.

A few handy tricks to bear in mind when wearing rib-

bons are: to tuck every loose end in. You don't want your whole hairdo fall apart just for one stray bit! Make sure you use pins to secure the overall style.

Hairsprays with medium hold come in very handy to achieve a polished look. Spray some on your palms and pat flyaways and baby hairs down. Lastly, wear your ribbons with elan and lots of style, and don't forget to have fun while you're at it!

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