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**THE FASHION SHOWCASE
BIGGER & BETTER**

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11th-12th September

@Grand Ballroom,
Hotel Amari, Gulshan 2,
(beside Lakeshore Hotel)
f /ucfashionshowcase

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ARMAN R. KHAN

UC Fashion Showcase is organising a two day long exhibition, titled "The Second Fashion Showcase – Bigger n Better", on September 11 and 12, 2015 at the Grand Ballroom of Hotel Amari in Gulshan, Dhaka. The festival will be open to all, from 10 am to 10 pm, on both days.

UC Fashion Showcase is the event management sector under the online boutique house, Unique Collection. Unique Collections, founded in 2012, has grown into a brand in its years of operation. It is one of the largest online boutiques of the country, and believes in bringing quality clothing and lifestyle products to its customers. It also supports the newcomers of the industry by providing them platforms to showcase their products.

This is the third and by far the largest exhibition that

Unique Collection is hosting, with 26 young and competent lifestyle brands from all over the country. So there will be plenty of non-mainstream fashion and craft houses displaying their exclusive collections under one roof.

Organised with Eid and the upcoming wedding season in mind, the stalls will boast a wide range of items befitting the theme, including panjabi and wedding wears. Additionally, there will be shalwar-kameez outfits, men's and kids' wears, various accessories, bags and hijabs among many other products. Mehndi stalls are a new addition in this exhibition to set the spirit right for the Eid and wedding season.

"The aim of the exhibition is to provide exposure to the exclusive and authentic fashion brands of Bangladesh, and give them an opportunity to establish their brands," said

Tamanna Ahmed, owner of Unique Collection and founder of UC Fashion Showcase. "Starting from people who make homemade soaps to those who sew their own bags and then sell, we're trying to bring everyone together and encourage them through the platform," she added. She also informed that Unique Collection works to empower the e-commerce sector through these exhibitions.

SHOUT is the strategic partner of the exhibition, while the radio partner is Shadhin 92.4FM.

To know more about the event, visit the event page at www.facebook.com/events/788986967882308

Arman R. Khan is a caffeine addict, a dreamer and a culture enthusiast who takes life one day at a time. Correspond with him at arman.rahman.khan@gmail.com or tweet @ArmanRK



GETTING CONTACT LENSES

What you need and want to know

SALMA MOHAMMAD ALI

Whether it's a substitute to glasses or merely a fashion statement, contact lenses seem to be quite popular. If you're thinking about ditching the bothersome glasses or you're tired of your natural brown/black irises, here's what you need to consider first.

For someone who usually wears glasses, the first step should be to make an appointment with your optician/ophthalmologist for a check-up and prescription. You usually cannot purchase lenses with "power" (prescription lenses) without a prescription. If you want lenses just for colour (plano lenses) a prescription is not required by all stores, but you should definitely ask your doctor if contacts are suitable for you. Not everyone can safely wear them as the shape and health of your eyes are important factors. Once you get the green signal from your doctor you're ready to get lenses.

Be warned that without proper care and maintenance contacts can severely harm your eyes, cause infections, for example. A friend had failed to maintain them properly and this caused her cornea to tear while removing the lens and her eye had swollen like a potato. DON'T BE HER. Remember contact lenses need to be stored in clean containers, filled with storage solution which needs to be changed at certain intervals. For details read the manual that comes with the lenses/solution, and for more detailed instructions visit <http://www.allaboutvision.com/contacts/>

Always remember to wash your hands thoroughly before handling the contact lenses; try not to have lotion/oil on your fingers. It's recommended to put them on before your make-up and remove them before taking your make-up off. Don't sleep in contact lenses or wet them and do remember to take them off if you feel any discomfort. Carry your container whenever

you wear the lenses; this way you can keep them safe if they need to be removed, unless you're wearing the one-time-use ones, which you'll discard after each wear. Oh and never share lenses with another person or wear expired ones.

If you want coloured lenses and you'll only wear them once in a few months then you should get ones that last around a year; there are some that expire within three months – you don't want those in this case. Lenses are available in most optics stores like Fashion Optics. For a large collection check out Lens Closet – an online store that sells lenses of various brands. FreshLook, Ego Vision and Neo Vision are the most popular brands and I would recommend the branded ones, as you don't want to compromise on quality when it comes to your eyes. For first timers, a subtle look works best; try colours like honey, hazel or grey before moving on to blue, green or even violet. The shades vary as well; some consist of only one shade of

the particular colour, others, two or three shades. The two latter mentioned ones look less plain but will cost you a little more than the former. Generally prices start from 500 taka and can go up to a few thousand depending on the brand.

Maintain them accordingly and you'll have a safe and fun new look. Fair warning though: for most people, once you go contact lenses you find it hard to go back.

Check out: Fashion Optics <https://www.facebook.com/fashionoptics>

Lens Closet <https://www.facebook.com/LensClosetbd?fref=ts>

Salma Mohammad Ali fears she is becoming a crazy cat lady and uses writing as a means to grasp on to sanity. Send her your views/hate/love at <https://www.facebook.com/salma.ali209>