

Kumudini-connoisseurs of the country's traditional crafts

Kumudini, a vital name in the revival of the handicrafts industry of Bangladesh has been in operations since the '80s.

The institution, having more than a decade's contribution in manual skills, offers tremendous scope of economic liberation to the rural women of our country.



Majority of the products available at Kumudini Handicrafts store within the capital are manufactured solely by hand, in its mega-structured factory, located in Narayanganj, Dhaka. Around 25000 female workers get a daily living from the factory work. The final produce is not only growing in popularity in leaps and bounds within the country but seems to be all-the-rage abroad, in countries like Japan and the U.K.

Kumudini Handicrafts outlets have many items in-store for their clients; the most exclusive bits and pieces being Jamdani saris and Nakshi-kantha items.

Taposh Datta, the Stock Incharge, of the Gulshan branch, had many things to say about the special products. "At Kumudini, we only encourage producing the original Jamdani saris and do not endorse any sort of fusion material. Our understanding is that Jamdani saris are a beauty on their own and do not need help from any other medium to enhance its beauty."

Further into the conversation with Datta, we came to learn that Kumudini has

its own set of valued designers and every single piece of Jamdani produced by the institution is based on these particular designers' selection.

"Our designs are unique and not available anywhere else; even if you can somehow manage a copy, be informed that it's illegal and the original design is Kumudini's sole property" he added.

The prices of the Jamdanis range from Tk 6000 to 60000. When asked what causes such a big distribution in value, Datta informed that it usually depended on the thread counts and the level of complications in design.

The store clerks were more than eager to show the Nakshi-kantha selection at the outlet, promising it would amaze any customer. The ladies were right; the Nakshi-kantha products were extremely detailed. The intricate kantha stitch was available on bedcovers, quilts, cushion covers, wall hangers and what not! An average bedcover cost around Tk 12000. Upon query behind the reason for high pricing; Datta,