In conversation with Shilpa Shetty

Bollywood beauty Shilpa Shetty was recently in town to walk the ramp for the show 'Passion for Fashion', a summer edition of the fashion show franchise. The show aims at promoting local designers, where Shetty graced the stage wearing a Vasavi dress.

Star Lifestyle caught up with the star to chat about the show and her thoughts on style, fitness and her lifestyle.

YOU ARE INVARIABLY KNOWN AS A DIVA. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DEFINITION OF STYLE?

As you can see I am dressed as everyone else (in jeans). I think comfort is paramount for me, and I choose my clothing depending on where I am going. If I am travelling, I will dress accordingly; for an event I may choose between Indian and Western – although I prefer Indian, especially

saris. I like to be a trend-setter more than a follower, which

is what I like to believe.

YOU ARE HERE FOR A FASHION SHOW, HAVE YOU GOTTEN A CHANCE TO LOOK AT THE WORKS OF BANGLADESHI DESIGNERS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE DESIGNS?

The dress that I am wearing today, is a really beautiful piece, with very intricate Swarovski work, but what Luna is doing here, it's interesting. The 'Passion for Fashion' is a great platform for upcoming designers, I really encourage it. Other than that I have heard a lot about 'the malmal' here. I have very limited time, or else I would have surely bought some cotton because Dhaka is known for its superior quality cotton. I would love to take a look.

YOU ARE WIDELY KNOWN FOR YOUR KNACK FOR FITNESS AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLE AND YOU LAUNCHED YOUR BOOK RECENTLY.
WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT?

I have always taken it as a huge compliment when people



say I have maintained myself, especially after becoming a mother. I believe I have become more conscious, which helped me get fit more easily. Contrary to popular belief, it is very easy to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Unfortunately, most people make the wrong choices. I really want to shift the focus from being weight-obsessed to being health-obsessed. There is a very big difference between the two.

When you are weight-obsessed you are not healthy, but when you become health conscious the weight automatically comes into check. So it basically is a lifestyle modification. It comes with a conscious effort, the timing of the meals, etc. And that's what 'The Great Indian Diet', my book, talks about.

WHY IS YOGA YOUR ULTIMATE CHOICE? WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THIS FORM OVER OTHER EXERCISES?

I think yoga chose me, I did not choose it. It came into my life at a time when I was looking at rehabilitating my neck after suffering with spondylitis. As an actor, it really pushed me back; the dates became a mess as I could not move my neck. I tried everything from physiotherapy to other alternatives, and it did not work. That is when somebody suggested that a long-term plan would be necessary. That is when I started yoga. It helps you lose weight, tone and also works in terms of therapy. So I started from there, and I gradually fell in love with it. I found it more convenient as I could just do it in my room. It was refreshingly therapeutic. Along with the body, it also works on the mind and the soul, a big stress-reliever I would say.

ABOUT FASHION, WHO IS YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER, SOMEBODY YOU WILL ALWAYS LOVE TO WEAR?

I have many; it basically depends on the occasion. I love Tarun Tahliani; he has always been my favourite. Then there is Manish Malhotra, I love his designs. And there are so many designers coming up, and they are all fantastic.

YOU ARE A WORKING MOTHER. HOW DO SHUTTLE BETWEEN YOUR WORK AND BEING A MUM?

I would say I am full-time mother and a part-time working woman. My son is the priority; he gets the main focus and then comes work. When I am out, like now, my husband is looking after him along with his work. This is the 21st century, so we believe in the two of us working and we are also hands-on parents equally at the same time, sharing the responsibility together. Being a mum is the priority for me.

By Lameya Alma Amin

The show Passion for Fashion, summer edition was organised by The Platform and was managed by Aristocrat Events. It took place on Saturday, 14 May 2016.

The coolest event of the year

Summer is here and with it a rise in temperature of the bustling city, Dhaka. We are swamped in our day to day activities battling with our never-ending workload, traffic, and of course, the sweltering heat. And, if there is anything that our heart craves most, it would be dessert.

FoodBank, an online forum for all food lovers around the country fulfilled that longing by proudly presenting The Dessert Factory. The coolest event of the year happened throughout 12th and 13th May at the Six Seasons Hotel from 11 am to 11 pm.

The idea came to Shish Shapnik, the founder of FoodBank, and he shared it with his fiancée Lazina Mona. Together with the rest of the admins of FoodBank, the event was carried out successfully with a handful of well-known dessert stores around the city. They received a massive response from all the dessert lovers around the city. After all, one can hardly deny coffee or waffles to start their day with. Renowned dessert stores included Yellow Submarine, Tastebud, Dipsydo's, New Zealand Natural Bangladesh, Bellissimo Creations, Icecream Rolls, Chewy Junior, and many others.

After the colossal response from Foodland that was carried out last year, FoodBank decided to raise the stakes and invest in the best dessert, ice-cream, juice and chillers all under one roof, and it paid off. It was worth the joyful faces of the customers and the store owners. The crowd enjoyed themselves in good company, great music and of course, with delicious desserts.

Lazina, one of the organisers of The Dessert Factory and admins of FoodBank, explained that one of the many reasons for carrying out this event was also to give exposure to the online bakeries such as Banee's Creation, Jinia's Kitchen and Brownie Hut. These dessert stores are flourish-

ing on social media yet sometimes they may fall behind due to the lack of retail stores. It was a very noble gesture for FoodBank to reach out to these homemakers and give them an opportunity to showcase their creations.

Besides dessert, there was also a huge crowd of coffee lovers who relished the presence of Antatouille Coffees, Coffee from East, and Coffeelicious Coffee. My personal favourite was the store Root for selling fresh fruit juices in a very unique style.

The fun didn't simply end at the event. Cold Stone Creamery, event partner of The Dessert Factory provided

'buy 1 get 1 coupons' for the first 500 people to arrive on each day. There was also a raffle draw on the last day and the winner won a chef special exclusive dinner for two at the Watercress Restaurant.

To promote the event, Radio Shadhin 92.4FM was heavily involved and founder of Instafoodbd, Sabit Hossain provided free entry for 25 of his followers on the last day.

For those who missed the event, keep an eye out on FoodBank's official page –www.facebook.com/groups/foodbankbd/ for more events such as Foodland 2.

By Mayesha Raidah

