

COVER STORY

HOT WAX; haute couture

The end of the millennium brought style and fashion to every Bangladeshi doorstep. Budding designers experimented with tie n' dye, hand block prints infused with embroidery and other value additions, and local fashion took feeble steps to a full grown industry that we now see.

Inspired by their initial collective success, the rookies (at least back then) focused on batik - an attempt at identifying with roots rather than creating a fashion novelty.

One must bear in mind that batik is occasionally referred to as tie n' dye, and the confusion is understandable. Both use a resist, a way to keep the dye from penetrating the textile in certain areas. However, in batik, rather than 'tying' up the fabric, wax is used to execute beautiful patterns. And the eventual result looks strikingly different from one that is tied and subsequently dyed with hues.

Batik has always been part of our culture; Comilla in particular is famed for producing the finest quality batik in the country. Flip to Centrefold to find out how fashion gurus identify themselves with batik and romance with its many forms.

