

From walking the ramps of Bangladesh to walking the international runways, Jannatul Ferdous Peya has come a long way indeed. Born and brought up in Khulna, she later moved to Dhaka to give wings to her dreams. She is one of the top models to have made it big in Bangladesh and beyond. Recently, Peya was featured in the October edition's cover of Vogue India. It is the 17th international edition of Vogue and the first edition in South Asia, out of the 20 others worldwide, with an overall sales of 3 crore copies. According to her, it surely is an achievement to be proud of, as the international exposure promises better opportunities at home and abroad. If you are wondering what lies behind all her glitz and glam, read along as we unveil the facts.

WHAT'S ON THE CATWALK?

With a simple photograph and the advice from a photographer, Peya tried her luck at modelling with Miss Bangladesh in 2007, and much to her surprise, emerged as the winner. Ever since then, she never had to look back. In 2011, she also took part in World Miss University, an international beauty contest held annually in Seoul, South Korea. In the following year, she also participated in another contest in Egypt where she represented Bangladesh with much pride. She has also taken part in Top Model of the World, which is

an international search for the ultimate model, which is owned and managed by the World Beauty Organization. Besides all that, Peya has also won the title in 2013 for Miss Indian Princess International, an annual beauty pageant for young non-residential Indian girls. Wherever she has participated, she was always sure to represent the spirit of Bangladesh to the fullest and had the patriotic factor pushing her through.

Not only is the model restrained by her knowledge of the fashion world, but she is very much active in the entertainment industry as well. After working in a few TV dramas, she also tried her luck in films with her debut in "Chorabali", which was well appreciated by the viewers and for which she has won a Bachsas Award. However, her film "The Story of Samara" did not prove to be of much success. Peya also starred opposite to Apurba in the film "Gangster Returns". She is also said to have made a guest appearance in the film "Prem Ki Bujhni". Peya was quite excited about her upcoming film "Chitmohol", and also stated that she is eager to know how the audience will react to the unique role that

she will be portraying in the film. She also mentioned that despite her passion for acting, she would like to acknowledge the fact that acting is a field, where she is yet to learn much more and hopes to contribute more dynamically, as she has for modelling.

Peya was also seen in a handful of music videos. She was the model for the eminent song "Abar Hashimukh" by the band Shironamhin which was well-appreciated by the fans nationwide. She was also seen in "Jhoom Boroshay" by Tanvir Tareq. Recently she starred in the music video of "Pujo Elo" by the renowned singer Nancy. It seems whatever the model-turned-actress ventures into, tends to morph into an international endeavour. Thus, Peya was also featured in Kunal Gupta's music video titled "Morey Saiyaan", which was yet another stepping stone for her and she mentioned that she was rather excited about the overall project.

Little did she know that amidst all the array of her attempts, lurked controversy. Hence, it did not take much

time to hit her in the bull's eye when she modelled for a photo-shoot, in her flaunting bikini. A lot of questions were raised, given the fact that she had an upbringing in a rather religious society. Nonetheless, the fearless Peya almost turned a blind eye stating that she saw nothing wrong with wearing a swimsuit and that when one is working internationally, all these minor issues are of no significance. Thus, she is doing her bit to improve and expand the modelling industry of our country and eradicate the injustice that often tags along with modelling, inevitably.

Peya also has a philanthropic side, as she runs an organization named WE Foundation along with her friends which works for the betterment of the needy. Peya is also a law graduate, and is currently interning with Dr Kamal Hossain & Associates. So now we know that there is more to the picture than meets the eye. On behalf of the Showbiz team, we wish Jannatul Ferdous Peya all the success in her future.

By: Minam Haq

