**SHOP REVIEW** 

## A peep into stunning summer designs by Mumu Maria

In what may become a new boost to the local fashion scene, designer Maria Sultana Mumu has made it a point to bring only the trendiest designs for her customers in her fashionhouse, Mumu Maria which is located on Banani-12. Inspired by her mother's work and with a passion for fashion, the founder knew what her true destiny was from quite an early age.

The boutique sets itself apart by its brilliant blending of Western and Bengali culture to produce something unique and stylish for their customers. Keeping up with the international trends and colour palettes, her fashion line always consists of iconic designs, which are specifically adapted to the country's weather and festivities.

And this summer, it is no different.

To cater to the changing trend, Mumu Maria came up with new colour palettes that include the classic white along with various shades of red and just a hint of pinks and greens. The summer collection has a tropical motif added to it and thus the patterns are dominated by rare floral prints, birds and butterflies.

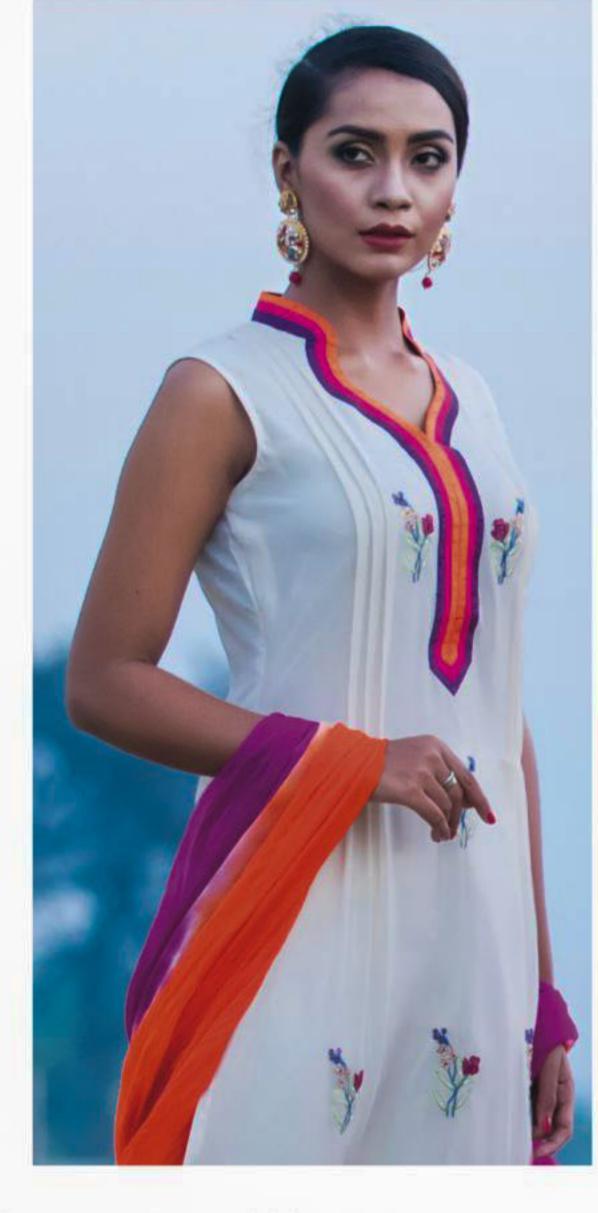
The morning wear collections are mostly chiffon and muslin to compensate for the extreme summer heat.

Light colours such as white are used as base, which are then contrasted with strokes of bold hues like maroon and magenta. If you want to keep it simple for the mornings, you could opt for the white kurti with light pink floral designs which gives quite a carefree dreamy vibe.

Each of the designs includes a combination of embroidery, hand or otherwise, sequins and stones, thus making it intricate and unique.

Brighter colours are used for the evening wears to maintain a fancy vibe, and the work on the fabric is much heavier, though the fabrics are still comfortable.

One piece that really stands out is the bright red gown with gold designs on the shoulders and the waistline. Not only does the collection contain the traditional half-silk, muslin, chiffon saris and shalwar kameez sets, evening gowns, tops and



kurtis are also available.

Mumu Maria hardly stops at colours and patterns when it comes to fashion. To further perfect the fashion line, popular demands such as the trendy uneven hemline on both long and short kurtis and shalwar kameez sets as well as the tail-hen, which is when the back of the dress stretches out to reach the floor, are also featured in the collection.

One of Maria's personal favourites is the frill. "If used correctly, it goes with plenty of different clothing styles and adds just the right amount of elevation to the dress. My summer collection includes saris bordered with frills, and blouses too! In fact, I even added a bit of pink frills along the princess-line, of one of my designs and it was a major hit among customers," she explained.

The dedicated designer has different lines for both casual wear as well as exclusive designer wear, and there are plenty of summer materials to choose from.

While casual wears start from Tk 2400, designer wear, which is custom-made, usually starts from around Tk 7000 and goes as high as Tk 14000. You can see the samples at the boutique and then pick your favourites, and customise according to your wishes.

The store will not only take your size, but if you want any changes in the design, they would fix that for you too.

So, what are you waiting for? Drop by the store, and show it some love!

By Adiba Mahbub Proma Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed Model: Mashiat and Maisha Wardrobe: Mumu Maria Make-up: Noyon

