



LS PICK

For the bubbly bride

For a bride, from her hair to her toes, everything needs the best care. The wedding season demands the best, and nothing less for the belle of the day. And why not? It is her day!

When one considers soaps for the occasion there are tons of brand names are vying for attention. Do ask yourself, what happened to the regal tone associated with the likes of Yardley and Palmolive of our grandmothers' time? Fast acting, chemical infused, all-in-one soaps are now the order of the day. For this wedding season, however, there is change of sight on the skin care horizon. We have a few local handmade soap-makers, who are out to change the soap-scenario with the best natural ingredients meant to pamper the skin for all special occasions.



ORGANICALLY SOAPY WITH SOAPERSTAR

While we dread ourselves in wonderment if our skin will ever feel baby soft and acne free, SoaperStar has established its demand in the market, and it just might be the Wonder Woman of beauty products!

SoaperStar is an online page and it is all about promoting organic personal care products. The idea of this online shop is to promote good quality handmade products.

Often commercial soaps strip the nourishment off our skins due to the harsh chemicals in the products. However, at SoaperStar the soaps are moulded with silicone into different shapes carrying healthy, natural, and organic ingredients such as good export quality oils, good grade lye, fresh and organic vegetables and fruits, local goat milk, loofah and much more.

The use of different essential oils and fruit purees helps the skin heal from the base.

"We firmly believe in natural healing: it is one of our slogans. When you use a freshly handmade soap, like the ones we have at SoaperStar, you will immediately notice how it leaves your skin supple, moisturised and glowing. With all these wonderful benefits,

why would anyone not use handmade soaps!" says Shehna Falila Mulk, the mastermind behind SoaperStar.

Unlike most soaps which follow the 'melt and pour base' solution, SoaperStar believes in making art out of soaps. A truly handmade soap induced with organic goodness is their goal and helping their customers of all age feel good and stress free after every bath is their target.

However, SoaperStar is not all about soaps. They have gained considerable popularity in the market with their sticky rice facemasks, 100 percent pure and freshly handmade coconut oil, their hair therapy anti-hair fall shampoo, skin correcting gels and body scrubs. They will be launching face creams and lotions very soon.

SoaperStar is dedicated in offering solutions, whether it be for skin or hair, whether in the form of soaps or hair oils. They are taking one problem at a time and launching products that offer a solution to the problem. Here is to the SoaperStar in all of us!

For more on their products and upcoming line-ups, visit www.facebook.com/allabtskin

By Sumaiya Tasnim

Photo: SoaperStar/Shehna Falila Mulk

RIBANA — NATURAL NOURISHMENT FOR THE SKIN

For organic handmade soaps, only a few reliable brands are available in the market; the imported varieties can pretty much break someone's beauty budget. A three-year-old local handmade soap brand is, however, determined to transform this very scene! Ribana (stylised as RibANA), the labour of dreams of Md Wahiduzzaman Sadi, is offering handmade soaps to fit the needs of the beauty forward individuals, sans the negative side-effects.

Wahiduzzaman, from his undergrad years in pharmacy at University of Development Alternative, saw how harsh chemicals were being used in everyday cosmetics. What hit him was that there were viable organic alternatives and those could be just as good, if not better than the mass-produced products.

Of course, the beginning was not as easy as it reads. Trial and error almost became his second motion as he sought to find a good marketable product. When he finally started in 2014, the setbacks were only beginning. While people were aware of organic products, the 'handmade' adjective did not quite hit the mark.

Standing in 2017 now, the story gets better. Ribana now receives over seventy to eighty messages per week with constant queries over Facebook on their products and offerings. Organic products are finally getting through to the users as many have suffered directly from years of mass marketed products.

Ribana at present has three different varieties of soaps — activated Carbon for cleansing and getting rid of acne, Goat's Milk for moisturising sensitive

skin and Saffron Goat's Milk Soap for nourishing brightness.

All three are fully hand-made through the Cold Process Method, which ensures that the soap is free from typical additives and preservatives. This also produces a rich lather that penetrates better into the skin for lasting benefits.

All soaps are made with the best possible ingredients. Wahiduzzaman leaves no stone unturned as he sources his saffron from Iran, and the activated carbon base from Merck — the world's leading chemical and pharmaceutical company, to name a few of the ingredients.

For now, Ribana is expected to include castor oil, coconut oil, Extra virgin olive oil soap and coconut cleanser soap as part of their newer offerings within November.

Wahiduzzaman understands the difference in skin types and acknowledges that some of the products may not have the expected result, but emphasises that they will NEVER harm the skin. He personally undertakes the testing for pH levels as well as seeing his products through from mixing to curing to packaging.

As more brands are popping up, Wahiduzzaman is eager to see people embracing organic products into their daily routine. In the near future, Ribana targets to be one of the brands that will become synonymous with quality local, organic, handmade cosmetic products.

Check out Ribana Soap for their line-up and other offers at www.facebook.com/ribanasoap

By Iris Farina

Photo: Ribana/Md Wahiduzzaman Sadi