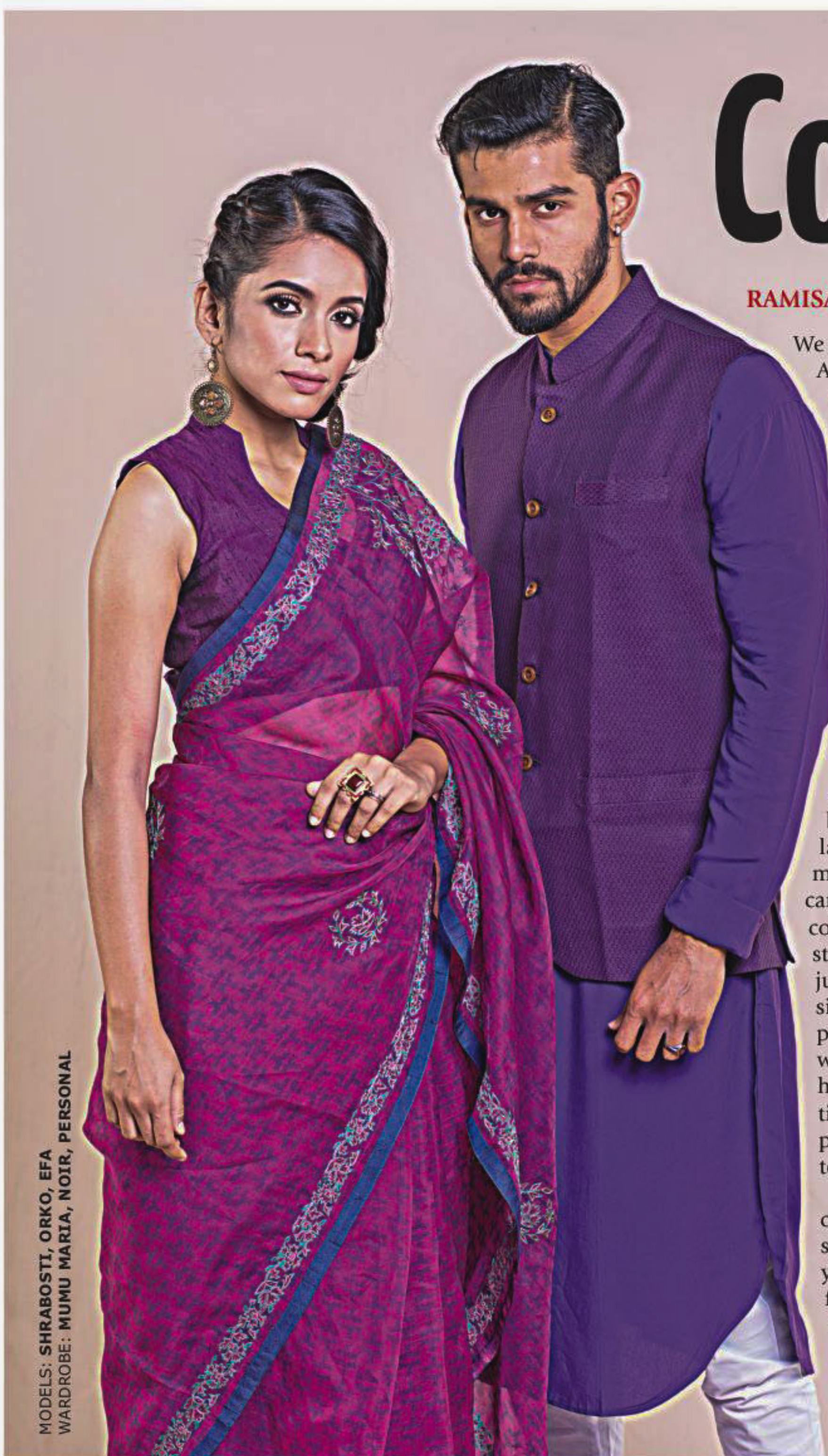


CHANGES THAT MAKE US #NOWINLIFESTYLE



DHAKA SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2018
FALGUN 12, 1424 BS

10



MODELS: SHRABOSHI, ORKO, EFA
WARDROBE: MUMU MARIA, NOTIR, PERSONAL

Colour Politics

RAMISA HAQUE

We may live and breathe words, if American author, Cassandra Clare is to be believed, but changing shades of time are in no way shy of conveying their own mosaic of stories. In all their tints and shades, shifting spectrums of colour invoke nostalgia, relate to literature, represent cultures and even instigate whole movements for change.

While the world seems to be obsessed over what colour dominates international fashion weeks and what colour has been reserved for the latest liberalistic movement, the Bangladeshi canvas debates over colours in its own muted strokes. But, contrasts don't just exist in ways of expression when it comes to colour politics. A long and exhausting walk down history will tell you how polarising modern perceptions of colours are when compared to their prehistoric counterparts.

Case in point is probably the controversial and gender-specific pink. While most of you may see pink as a rather feminine colour, 19th century trends say otherwise. A couple of hundred years ago, pink was quite the masculine shade worn by young men in

the form of ribbons on their wrists.

But somewhere along the lines, we saw a spike in popularity of all things pink for women and everything blue for men that only somewhat faded in the face of the new millennia. Breaking conventional barriers and no longer seen as 'girly,' pink is now a colour for



Comparing the radiant sun's rays to bright, sulphur yellow, Van Gogh was a true admirer of the colour. The 'Sunflower' paintings represented a rare time of excited optimism for him and attempted to express emotion. For Van Gogh, who chose various shades of yellow to create the paintings, the 'Sunflower' series was an emblem of happiness and it only makes sense how tones of yellow have now evolved to mean positivity and sheer joy.

In the scene of interpreting colour, great literary works have their own ways. Portrayed to symbolize moods, build premise and draw vivid comparisons, authors and litterateurs have many a times used colours when putting pen to paper. The classic British novel Lord of the Flies depicts 'green' to mean innocence and maturity in a lush island full of nature. On the other hand, direct comparisons were drawn between 'black' and 'death' in American author Edgar Allan Poe's poem, The Raven. Moreover, the protagonist Jane fainting in a 'red' room in the classic novel Jane Eyre out of sheer fear of a ghost is a shout-out to the strong emotions associated with the colour.

Whilst colours have evolved to adopt unexpected meanings and symbolisms, they have also been undeniably linked to human emotions. Personal connections to certain colours, social or even cultural associations- all play their parts to invoke distinct reactions in us when it comes to colours. And we have colour-coordinating idioms in the vast English language to back our claim here!

freedom. It has been redefined and reborn and is now bolder than ever.

In the race of being rediscovered and revived, tints of yellow are not too far behind either. Originally seen as the colour of 'gold' in archaic times and deemed a symbol of 'indestructibility,' it was perhaps the iconic 'Sunflower' series by Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh that shone a rather different light on the hue through brilliantly strategic strokes on his canvas.

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