

Alpana's Cooking: the book that will conquer shelves and hearts

On 13 May, 2018, Alpana Habib finally launched her long-awaited cook book, 'Alpana's Cooking.' Publishing a book of recipes was her childhood dream. So, with years of experience in the culinary world, and with help from friends and family, her dream came to fruition.

The event was hosted by Zara and Naveed Mahbub, and they brought unbound joy and laughter to the night. The panel of speakers starred an ensemble of eminent women in Bangladesh such as Sara Zaker, executive vice chairman of Asiatic 360; Tasmima Hossain, editor of Ananya Magazine; Sadia Afrin Mallik, chief of cul-

tural affairs, The Daily Star; Nilufar Farooq, head of Ikebana; and most importantly, Alpana Habib's mother Dr. Afzalunnessa. The chief guest of the night was actor and MP Asaduzzaman Noor, Minister of Cultural Affairs.

"My passion for cooking started when my father fell ill, and all I wanted to do was prepare the best meals for him," Alpana Habib says.

She also said that it wasn't until her massive following on YouTube that really pushed her to write and compile recipes, saying, "I was on television for a while, but the YouTube subscribers were so diverse

that I had to think about writing the book in both English and Bangla so that the recipes are inclusive for a wide range of the world, and I want my legacy to be my easy to prepare cook book".

Life comes in full circle in the most beautiful ways. For Alpana Habib, the day of her book launch was not only on Mother's Day, who stood there as a mother and a daughter, but she was also able to publish the book in the birth month of the woman who inspired her the most, Siddika Kabir.

MP Assaduzzaman Noor said, in his speech to Alpana Habib, "It has been a

while that a Bangla recipe book at this scale has been published, since Siddika Kabir's Recipe, and because you had close ties with her, and having known both of you, I can say that you are her successor."

The night ended with a mouth-watering array of over 15 items with appetizers, mains and desserts.

Books available at: Aarong, The Book Worm, Bread and Beyond bakery, Stardust and rokomari.com.

Price: BDT2500

Visit <http://alpanahabib.com/>

By Sanumkia Siddiqui

Bangladesh Heritage Crafts Foundation

Tootli Rahman, one of the pioneer designers to uphold Bangladeshi heritage weaves, is very vocal in preserving our art forms. She set her preservation project in stone in a meeting on 12 May 2018, announcing that she will be establishing a foundation for the Bangladeshi weavers and cultural craftsmen.

Bangladesh's planning minister, AHM Mustafa Kamal was present, and Tootli Rahman conveyed her gratitude towards

him for supporting her cause. US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Marcia Stephens Bernicat, graced the occasion and encouraged everyone who is a part of the foundation to never give up on this project.

The motto of the Bangladesh Heritage and Crafts Foundation is to provide proper livelihood for the craftsmen. And that will give them ample incentive to keep alive the practice of handloom and weaving. The foundation aims to preserve the fading

heritage of our traditional nakshi kantha, pottery, brass, bamboo, jute, cane work etc. The pillars of the Bangladesh Heritage Crafts Foundation are to work with, train and promote local weavers. The Foundation promises to be a consortium of shared ideas from other countries too, where people will learn about the diverse history of each other's craft heritage. It will be a platform to showcase the vast expertise of worldwide artisans.

In the meeting, Rahman announced that the foundation will open a small outlet in the near future, which will be called "Heritage Crafts." She emphasises that the clothes will be of exclusive designer quality, but at a very affordable price. The meeting concluded with a short documentary by Amitabh Reza Chowdhury on our weavers.

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