THE EVOLUTION OF TAILORED EID CLOTHES

|| JULEKHA PARVIN ||

DHAKA VIBE

A customer explains her design with the help of her smartphone. *Below*, tailors work hard to finish all orders before Eid-ul-Fitr. The photos were taken at New Market recently.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

An indispensable part of Eid-ul-Fitr is new clothes, and getting them tailored gives one more freedom to customise the look and fit. With the familiar noise of scissors and sewing machines welcoming customers, tailor shops are bustling as Eid knocks on the door.

Last week during a visit to New Market, tailors were seen marking designs with colourful chalks, and the cacophony of clients explaining what they want and craftsmen working could be overwhelming to the iuninitiatited.

Despite the resounding success and massive popularity of readymade clothes from big brands and online shops, women's demand for customised clothes is still high, said tailors.

Sadia Afrin, a homemaker from Tikatuli area, said, "I prefer tailored clothes as the fit is as close to perfect as it gets. I can also pick out the best quality fabrics for myself."

Monira Binte Hasi, a private university student, was

explaining the design of her kameez using a laptop. "I want a unique neckline and cutting, so I brought the design on my laptop to explain it better to the tailor. I love wearing dresses designed by myself on Eid day," she said.

The busiest tailors of the city are in Gausia, New Market and Chandni Chowk. Irin Zaman, a banker from Arambagh was visiting a tailor shop in Gausia. "Whenever I see a good design online, I save it on my phone and get it made."

Md Muslim runs a tailor shop in Dhanmondi's Mohammadia Super Market, and spoke about how the process of tailoring clothes has changed over the years. "I have many loyal customers. While they used to pick out designs from the catalogues in my shop before, today they either have everything planned out in their phones, or they bring a complete picture of the design provided with the three-piece."

Nazneen Sultana, a customer at Gausia, said it was simply more convenient to find inspiration online and bring it to life. "It's easier to explain, and we have more design options to choose from," she added.

This year's Eid-ul-Fitr will fall in the middle of summer, and cotton is the best choice for this hot weather. "To make up for the simpler choice of fabric, customers are using laces, applique work, and embellishments to glam up cotton outfits. Palazzo pants were trendy the past few years, but this year A-line and pencil pants are more popular," said Sohel Hossain, master tailor at Majestic Ladies' Tailors in Chandni Chowk market.

During the last two weeks of Ramadan, most tailors had stopped taking new orders. Some of the busier shops stopped taking orders as soon as the first week of Ramadan ended.

Tailoring clothes prior to Eid is a long-standing tradition among Bangladeshi women, and technology has made the process easier for both parties.

Do you have a Dhaka Vibe story to share? Email us your ideas or reports to dhakavibeds@gmail.com

75pc Rohingya babies born in bamboo shelters

Says Save the Children report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Every three out of four Rohingya babies are born in unsafe and unsanitary bamboo shelters, putting the lives of mother and baby at great risk, says Save the Children in a new report published yesterday.

The aid agency warned that hundreds of mothers and babies in the refugee camps could die this year of entirely preventable causes, if mothers do not get proper maternal healthcare.

The report was prepared based on data from Save the Children's primary healthcare centres from July 2018 to April 2019 that says of the expected 400 births in a community of some 20,000 people, only 119 babies were safely delivered in its properly-equipped health facility. The remaining births took place at home.

Worryingly, the study also found that half of all maternal deaths in the camps happen at home.

"This means mothers received no emergency care which could have been life-saving," said Save the Children.

According to Unicef, more than 60 children are born every day in the camps where some 1.1 million Rohingyas, including 750,000 who fled Myanmar military crackdown since August 2017, are living in the makeshift shanties in Ukhia and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

According to a joint report of the UN Population Fund and the Center for Disease Control, for every 100,000 live births, 179 mothers die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth in the country. It is almost two-and-a-half times higher than the worldwide target for maternal mortality of under 70 per 100,000 live births.

Save the Children said it has heard anecdotally that some families do not seek out care during pregnancy complications, because they fear sterilisation or infanticide -- based on their experiences in Myanmar -- and would rather keep the women at home at all costs.

"Healthcare providers need to earn the trust of the community, so that expectant mothers get the care they need when they need it."

The international charity says home births put the lives of both mother and baby at serious risk, as unskilled birth attendants are often unable to identify or handle emergencies in time, and are unaware of pre-existing conditions of the mothers such as high blood pressure, diabetes, anemia and malnutrition, which can lead to complications during delivery.

Also, poor hygiene practices can lead to severe infections in mothers and newborns, the report said.

The maternal mortality rate paints a grim picture of the unhygienic conditions in which many girls and women in the camps deliver their babies, said Save the Children.

It called for rapid investment to make high-quality health facilities available for expectant mothers and their families.

'Clarify why you distorted historic facts'

Sector Commanders' Forum asks AK Khandker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF) yesterday called upon Air Vice-Marshal (retd) AK Khandker to clarify why and on which vested quarter's provocation he "distorted historic facts" in his book "1971: Bhitore Baire".

In a statement, SCF said, "We also call upon AK Khandker to correct distortion of other historic facts and inconsistencies which were included in the book."

"Because, to safeguard the nation's glorious history of independence, anti-liberation elements' secret plots should be made clear before the nation," it said.

The signatories of the statement are: SCF Chairman Maj Gen (retd) KM Shafiullah, its Vice Chairman Lt Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, and Secretary General Haroon Habib.

Making a formal apology for "error" in the book on Saturday, Khandker, deputy chief of staff of liberation forces in 1971, said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his historic March 7 speech never said "Joy Pakistan".

The former AL planning minister said protests started across the country against a particular part on page 32 and "some other content" of the book after it was published in August 2014.

"I believe many patriotic citizens were shocked because of this particular part. However, this part was incorporated

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HEALTH HACK

After a month of fasting, our bodies get used to the meal schedules. Here's how to ease into the regular diet.

1. Don't have a heavy breakfast. Having a plate of biryani first thing in the morning after a month of no breakfast might lead to indigestion.

2. Portion your meals and drinks accordingly. We don't need to have a big meal to conserve energy for the next day anymore.

3. With so many mouth-watering dishes on Eid day, it's hard to control oneself. But your body won't be ready and you'll probably end up feeling bloated for the rest of the day.

4. If you've managed to skip greasy food during the month of Ramadan, continue that habit.

PRICING DISCREPANCY

Nat'l consumer rights body fines two major clothing outlets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid last-minute mad rush for Eid shopping, the Uttara outlet of local fashion brand Aarong was shut down for a few hours and fined Tk 4.5 lakh yesterday, for discrepancies in pricing labels of two products in the same category.

Receiving compliant from a customer that Aarong charged Tk 1,315 for a panjabi on May 31 which was sold at Tk 730 on May 25, the Directorate of National Consumers' Rights Protection (DNCRP) launched the special drive.

"During the drive, we found the claim of the customer to be true, and slapped the fine," Manjur Mohammad Shahriar, deputy director (Dhaka division) of DNCRP told The Daily Star.

"The punishment handed down to Aarong is a symbolic punishment. They admitted that they made a mistake," said the official who supervised the drive.

Chief Operating Officer of Aarong, Mohammad Ashraful Alam, said that after the magistrate's visit, they immediately conducted an internal investigation and found out that the price tags were placed wrongly.

"We regret the inconvenience caused unintendedly and are working with the authorities to resume normal operation as soon as possible."

"Our customers are entitled to claim refund if any pricing discrepancy is found, as per standard store policy," he added.

In a separate drive, DNCRP also fined Vasavi Fashion showroom at Gulshan Tk 2 lakh, as staff of the outlet could not show proper import documents of a lehenga with a price tag of Tk 85,000.

The fine was also for selling some foreign cosmetics without importers' sticker on the items, said Shahriar.

He added that DNCRP also fined sweets shop Bikrampur Mistanna Bhander Tk 50,000 for selling substandard food, and another small bakery Tk 20,000.

CANTEEN OWNERS OF TWO FERRIES FINED

Meanwhile, our Manikganj correspondent reports that Asaduzzaman Rumel, Assistant Director of the district's DNCRP fined owners of two ferry canteens at Paturia Ghat in Manikganj Tk 60,000 yesterday, for selling food at a higher price than the fixed price.

Canteen owner of Shah Makhdum Ferry was fined Tk 50,000 while the of canteen owner of Birshreshtha Matiur Rahman Ferry was fined Tk 10,000, said Asaduzzaman.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A helper of an inter-district bus tugs a prospective passenger towards his vehicle at Sayedabad Bus Terminal. As residents of the capital throng bus stations to head home for Eid, the bus services are also in overdrive to maximise profit.

To honour the victims whose lives were claimed by the Nimtoli fire, on the ninth anniversary of the incident, individuals placed wreaths on a monument built in the area. Over a hundred people died in the tragedy. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

3-tier screening to enter Eidgah: DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People coming to National Eidgah ground for Eid prayers can only bring prayer rugs and umbrellas with them, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia said yesterday.

Everyone will have to undergo three-tier screening before entering the venue, he said, adding that similar security arrangement is in place for Baitul Mukarram National Mosque.

"Devotees will be allowed to enter after being screened through archways and metal detectors being set up in front of Shikkha Bhaban, Matshya Bhaban and Jatiya Press Club," the DMP commissioner told reporters while going over security measures taken for the National Eidgah. No one will be allowed to enter the area with vehicles.

Moreover, devotees will have to undergo similar screening at the main entrance and before entering the VIP zone inside the Eidgah, the DMP commissioner said and requested Dhaka dwellers to cooperate with the police.

Responding to queries of journalists, the DMP commissioner said there is no specific security threat centring Eid. "But there are reasons to remain alert, considering the global situation," he said.

He also said sufficient numbers of law enforcers in uniform and plain clothes along with members of SWAT, bomb disposal unit and dog squad will be deployed to ensure security.

The whole Eidgah area will be under CCTV camera surveillance. "The CCTV cameras will be monitored real time from the temporary control room," the DMP chief said.

He also said they have made preparations to ensure security in the city after Eid.

CAR PARKING DIRECTIVES

Devotees going to National Eidgah for Eid prayers will be able to park their vehicles at: Matshya Bhaban to Shahbagh; inside Institute of Engineers Bangladesh; carpet alleyway (goli); outside Doel Chattar barricade; outside Fazlul Haque Hall barricade; and outside Press Club link road barricade.