

## The Turban Traveller

Sixty-year-old Amarjeet Singh Chawla (a.k.a. the Turban Traveller), is on a mission to travel across the globe by car — an epic road trip dedicated to Guru Nanak, founder of Sikhism. His SUV, covered with messages and good wishes written by the numerous people he befriended during his travels, came to Bangladesh, the 35th country in his ongoing journey of about 100 countries, about a month ago.

Star Lifestyle caught hold of this globetrotter at Gurdwara Nanak Shahi, the Sikh place of worship in Dhaka University campus. Very warm and friendly, he talked

of life and adventure, and his tribute to the Sikh Guru.

"I never let anyone else drive my car!" he giggled. His love for the road was apparent. And without such zest, how would you explain a Delhi-to-London road trip!

Amarjeet Singh Chawla (the Turban Traveller) waited many years before he could get out and pursue his dream of travelling.

"When I was young, I told my father I wanted to travel the world. He said, shut up!" the Turban Traveller narrated, laughing. "He told me to finish my education and focus on business."



And businessman he became, working as a garment exporter in India, putting his dream on hold.

But after his retirement, there was no stopping him.

Decades ago, he was inspired when he met a Dutch girl in India who was travelling with her boyfriend. Years and years later, when he set out to fulfil his dream of travelling, he tracked her down and actually met her in Holland!

After all that, after reaching London — a long road trip — he asked himself, is this the end?

"This is the beginning," the devotee of Guru Nanak decided. "I have always been inspired by Guru Nanak Devji. When I learned that this year will mark his 550th birth anniversary, I set out on a spiritual journey dedicated to him. He travelled for many long years and visited numerous places."

The Turban Traveller's journey has also

taken the form of a travel documentary series through the PTC Network of India.

Driving hundreds of thousands of miles, including muddy roads and tough terrains, makes him wonder and appreciate how Guru Nanak did it ages ago, when communication and transportation was not modern.

"Through my journey, I can feel how tough it must have been at that time, to go far and wide in order to spread the message of peace," he continued. "The human mind and body are magical, if you know how to stretch your limits."

And hence, the Turban Traveller travels from one country to another, visiting gurdwaras, or even if there isn't one, spreading the Guru's message of love and universal brotherhood.

Follow The Turban Traveller on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, and Twitter.

**By M H Haider**

**Photo: Intisab Shahriyar**



### SHOP REVIEW

## Luxury redefined

With a flaring passion and a profound love for the glitz and glam of the fashion industry, Sahar Rahman reintroduces her fashion house, Sahar Rahman Couture, open for any girl looking to add some sparkle to her wardrobe.

Opened in September, the suave and tasteful store in Gulshan 2 (House 07, Road 77), was designed by Sahar Rahman's husband and his company, Creation. Rahman's sister, Amana Rahman, and best friend, Badria Anis, have both played pivotal roles in making this dream come true.

Starting with the four main lines — casual wear, evening wear, heavy formal wear and bridal wear — the store has everything in between for everyone's comfort and style, along with suitable accessories. It offers a range of set kameezs, printed and kimono tunics, kurtis, poncho tops and many more cuts and styles, in bold warm hues and in varieties of pastel shades.

The materials for the clothes are mostly muslin, silk, and their staple fabric, pure French chiffon, which adds to the wearability and lavishness of every apparel. Solid colours are a rarity in this store, but prints, ruffles, combinations, and contrasts of different pastel and bold shades are abundant.

It would be wrong to assume that the luxury fashion house only caters to those who love to shimmer. Their line also contains a range of designs for those looking for a subtle glamorous look.

According to Rahman, "The designs of the clothes reflect not just my personality, but my sister, Amana's as well."

The design of the clothes don't cater to any particular trend, but instead, put a twist and touch of glamour to familiar outfits, and traditional wedding wear.

This year's bridal couture, including the bridesmaids' outfits, bring about cultural fusion through gowns with a traditional touch in a variety of pastel colours. The intention behind this fusion was to create something different, but not "completely out of the box." Lighter shades and pastels play a significant role in bridal couture, but the elegance of the outfit never fails to radiate through the modest bejewelling. It is the perfect combination of glamour and tradition for every girl's princess moment!

Despite the wide range of subtle bridal wear, due to popular demand, this year's line has included bold and bright colours as well. Additionally, for those who have an exact vision of what they want their outfit to be, the store is not limited to what they already have, and allows their clients the option of modification.

Rahman states, "Every bride knows what she wants her outfit to be, and for that, bride-to-be's have the option of customising their outfits to realise their perfectly grand outfit, to look stunning on their very own big day."

The exclusive footwear, all designed



by the store and made in Bangladesh, "Monroe" is a venture Rahman started with her best friend Badria Anis. To accessorise, the store has a 'Potli' line, which includes bags in prints, patterns and of course, sparkle. After all, every outfit needs the perfect bag.

Overall, the store acts as a 'one-stop

solution for girls' and has both extravagance and subtle outfits for all personalities.

The accessories are sourced from outside, but Rahman hopes to soon start manufacturing accessories locally to help local employment status, and to further encourage people to invest in locally manufactured dresses and accessories over foreign ones.

Rahman says, "The store is a dream come true. I always had a vision of a luxury store in Dhaka to provide a bespoke luxury experience."

The future of the fashion house looks promising, as it is the first Bangladeshi brand to take the spotlight in Bangkok to exhibit their line. For expansion, Rahman hopes to open another branch in Chattogram in the near future, and maybe even go international.

Bride-to-be's are encouraged to make appointments a month or two ahead, so that the store can get started on customisations and create their perfect look. Other than that, anyone is welcome to check out the store during their working hours (11AM-8PM).

**By Puja Sarkar**

**Photo courtesy: Sahar Rahman**

The best way to get in touch with the store is through their Instagram page, [https://instagram.com/saharrahman\\_couture](https://instagram.com/saharrahman_couture) or contacting the store directly by calling 01928111555