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Star

Life

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Springtime camaraderie

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SPRING IN BLOOM

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STYLIST: ZABIN IQBAL
WARDROBE: STUDIO MAYASIR BY
MAHEEN KHAN
MAKEUP AND HAIR: FERDOUS
AHSAN ORKO AND SHAMS ROMON

**সুরক্ষিত দেয়াল
নিরাপদ পরিবার**

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Magical Threads Runway 2021

To narrate untold stories woven painstakingly but silently upon majestic tapestries, Magical Threads Runway 2021, an iconic fashion show, unfolded in all the colours of Bengal on 5 March, Friday, at Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden. Headlining this elegant affair of threads and clothes was the iconic collaboration between global fashion designer Bibi Russell, and the ethnic atelier that is the talk of the town, House of Ahmed.

"After more than a decade, I'm doing a fashion show in Bangladesh. Through Magical Threads, I would like to show the magic and the incredible work of Bengali artisans. It's amazing how one thread can be intertwined with another to create outstanding designs through creativity. It's this creativity that can sustain economic survival and uplift poverty



with dignity," proclaims Bibi Russell.

"My collection not only highlights the culture and the beautiful melodies of Bengal but also the joy of villagers. They're my evergreen inspiration. Fashion for development is an accurate description of my work, as all of my outfits are beautifully hand-made by skilled craftsmen whose art is unfortunately on the decline in an impoverished country. And, so, saving the craftspeople and helping to revive their dreams is what I'm committed to do. I want to preserve the heritage of my country, foster creativity, provide employment opportunities, empower women and contribute towards the eradication of poverty," envisions Bibi.

Gowher Rizvi - International Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs - AK Abdul Momen stood proud



of Bibi's efforts while serving as the chief guests of the event, amongst more foreign dignitaries and ambassadors. Magical Threads was inaugurated by Momen, who mused, "When I was preparing myself for this evening show of glitter and glamour, I was thinking of the stories we weave with threads and needles. Stories of men and women, stories of love and war, lived and imagined. Who knows how to differentiate between what is real and what is not when we are dealing with magic?"

And so, in a bid to witness the enchanting magic of woven stories without ever being able to truly comprehend them, Bibi's designs, finally, took over the stage in a whirlwind of reds and greens. You'd agree that the colour combo is a true nod to the national flag of Bangladesh, historic salutation to our nation by Bibi. Bohemian-styled, ethnic garments reminiscent of Bengal's women painted the perfect portrait of the era of Bangladeshi singer extraordinaire, Abdul Jabbar. Bibi's very own fabric bum bags, garments fashioned into interesting drapes and dangling silver jewelry amplifying all the noise in the house completed her signature style.

House of Ahmed was up next. Coming out with guns blazing, the ethnic couture brand featured an extensive array of panjabis and traditional wear fit for any occasion of the calendar! House of Ahmed's signature

white panjabi with zardosi collar was the focus of the evening, alongside more designs in muslin and premium embroideries for sherwanis, kablis and pagris. Designs for women shined in stark contrasting colours, top-of-the-line raw silks, zardosi on muslin, heavy karchupi and organza. Bridal couture was what stole the show for House of Ahmed's collection as they displayed all that they have to offer in a vibrant red sari with intense zardosi work with badla detailing.

Perhaps what stood out most amid the fashion and the clothes were the simple and yet baroque hairstyles donned by her models: middle-partitioned, neat buns adorned with beautifully red roses, courtesy of Sunsil, a household name in hair care and hair beauty in Bangladesh. Sunsil's association with Bibi Russell's show drove on a singular agenda above all else, that is, to depict the changes in hair styles over the past half century in Bangladesh, a treat in itself!

More partners of the show were yet another luminary in the beauty world, Farzana Shakil, Enchanted Décor, Viral Shield Masks, Mutual Trust Bank and FB Footwear, not to mention Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden.

By Ramisa Haque
Photo: House of Ahmed

Corrigendum

On Pages 08 and 09 of Star Lifestyle, Volume 20, Issue 36, Monday, March 8, 2021, Falgun 23, 1427 BS, the feature — Ladies Leading the Way — had inadvertently misplaced pictures of Ambareen Reza – Co-Founder and MD at foodpanda, with Ashreen Mridha - Founder Deshi Ballers and Brand Manager at a multinational company, and vice versa.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience caused by the error.



Ambareen Reza – Co-Founder and MD at foodpanda



Ashreen Mridha - Founder Deshi Ballers and Brand Manager at a multinational company

us on /Sandalina

ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য মানেই

অ্যান্ডালিনা

সোপ

রূপচর্চায় আভিজাত্য...

#LS EDITOR'S NOTE

In conversation with Indian Supermodel Nayanika Chatterjee

She has been under the limelight, on the ramps, and in the media as an Indian supermodel for some 30 odd years. Nayanika Chatterjee is the ideal person to talk to about the changes our society has gone through in regards to portraying women in mass media.

The road to progress has not been an easy one, from objectifying women to acknowledging them for who she is, is a long journey. The obstacle-laid path has not been trouble-free, nor will it ever be undemanding but surely and steadily the road has been walked by women from all strata of the society and a lot of progress has been made. It does not end here.

"If your families do not mind your going beyond the kitchen and support your choice, then the situation automatically changes in favour of you and for the betterment of your future. Because it is from your family that you draw the confidence and education, the strength and willpower to go and pursue your dreams and to have the ability to face the obstacles you meet in pursuing dreams. Otherwise, your fight would become ten times fierce," says Nayanika Chatterjee.

"Treat knowledge intelligently," she said, while explaining what is more important to her as a feminist.

As you aware that wearing a swimsuit to a mall or a mini skirt to a bazaar is inappropriate; similarly, you must be aware that the taxi driver, the bus helper or rickshaw puller is not educated enough to rise to your level of intelligence and not be bothered about how you are dressed, and not see you as an object of desire.

To make them understand to not regard a woman as a thing to exploit, to respect her for who she is, is acquired through learning and education.

Parents of both girls and boys must train their wards of cultural etiquette, social manners, and educate them from early on. This socio-cultural education begins at home from a tender age.

Heinous crimes like rape, molestation, violence against women, domestic violence or even 'eve teasing' — none of these situations are in isolation, the underlying issue here is lack of education and proper knowledge in respecting or regarding women and it starts from home; where you see your fathers disrespecting your mother or your sisters living a second-hand life.

"I am a feminist and I just want to be allowed to do what I want to do; and I always want to be the best version of myself. I must use my senses to make sure I am not in any peril. This of course comes from my parenting and education," she says.



"When technology is in the hands of the not-so-educated people, they will use it wrongly, even for children, we have net nannies and when adolescents from not so literate strata get to see and download whatever they want, the situation goes out of hands. They must know how to use it well, where to use it; their unsupervised usage gives birth to wrongdoings at various levels.

"It is your right to wear everything but you will have to choose correctly. This is where I believe from my experience that you have to use your knowledge intelligently. You cannot change their upbringing, but you can use your mind. I am all for women's liberation, but I strongly suggest that you do not put yourself in

peril. What is more important — to wear a short skirt and be ragged on, or to be regarded as a strong voice?" asks Chatterjee.

"I think feminism, for me, is you can work with freedom and live to make the right choices. Clothes are a small part in this fight for freedom to-be, we need to weigh what is really important. I want to be heard and not be put off because of my gender. There are injustices at various levels," Chatterjee added very passionately.

It's easier to fight a battle when you have not done anything wrong. If you are a professional and strong-willed regarding what you stand for, you are bound to be heard.

"In my professional life, I was always aware of shutting up loose comments, I put

up a no-nonsense attitude so that people do not get or give you the wrong signals. Ours is a tough world, you have to be mentally strong to survive in it. Because you are constantly judged; too thin, too dark, too short, bad hair, not good posture — you have to accept these judgements. It is indeed a difficult line to cross and maintain sanity.

"Everyone has a story and my story initially affected me a lot. I had to fight society's prejudice about my skin tone and hair and later, it actually gave me the strength to rise from that situation and I am glad it happened. My training and grooming helped me rise above my turmoil. I made a place and a name for myself in big shows, I made a place for myself by being myself. I cannot look like others so I am my best version," explains an inspiring Chatterjee.

She tries to incorporate this value into her daughter as well, who is also a model. Chatterjee maintains a friendly relation with her daughter and tries to give her a stable home and a secured life because home is where she can truly express herself and face her fears and work on them.

"We are the post-independence generation, when we were all evolving along with the society, we have not seen or gotten things easily on a platter like our children do today. We understood poverty, understood the reality of dying of starvation, we had to share a bedroom with our siblings. Internet was not there.

"But now, you have to work towards being close to our families, children do not know the family value system. It was different for us and this generation is spoiled for choices, which has made things terrible. I have seen this with every generation of models I worked with. I have seen how the values, morale, ethics change with every generation," said Nayanika Chatterjee.

"My tips to my students are to maintain discipline both on and off the show, I don't enjoy modelling so much now, for which I teach. For me, my work was a good experience I would like to cherish. My daughter and me, we have been on the ramps together and separately for couple of times and I more tensed for her," she says laughingly.

It is doubly exciting to hear a supermodel talk about women's issue and societal values; it only makes us believe that women under the limelight and on the screen are as real as the one walking down the street. We fight the same war.

Nayanika Chatterjee was in town to choreograph a fashion show for House of Ahmed along with our own supermodel Bibi Russell.

— RBR

**Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel
Model: Nayanika Chatterjee**

#PRESS RELEASE

Team Group observes International Women's Day

Keeping in mind the significance of the day, Team Group has celebrated International Women's Day by acknowledging the efforts of over 300 pregnant women working in their six RMG factories.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director Abdullah Rakib stressed on the need to stand by the women of society. He expressed his view that if women are given due credit for the work they do in the workplace and at home, society would advance far ahead. Deputy Managing Director Abdullah Nakib said that Team Group is a family of eight thousand and eight hundred people. To aide in the working women of the company, Team Group has established primarily school for children of the employees.

Team Group is a rapidly growing conglomerate, working in industries including RMG, Pharmaceuticals, Retail, IT & Real Estate.

A new journey for Splendor by Aneeka Bushra

Accomplished Dhaka based professional makeup artist, Aneeka Bushra, has recently launched her salon "Splendor by Aneeka Bushra," in Dhanmondi to cater to the daily makeover requirements for women in Dhaka.

This salon will serve walk-in customers as well as pre-scheduled appointments. Aneeka Bushra will also utilise the premises for specialised and customised makeover sessions.

On the occasion, the founder, Aneeka Bushra, commented, "I am continually inspired by my clients and the creative collaborators I work along. This is now a new opportunity for us to provide the best possible service to the clients with an array

of options.

The services to be availed at the salon includes, but is not limited to, makeovers, haircutting and hair colour, pedicure and manicure, etc. Clients from outside of Dhaka can also avail services through prior appointment.

Aneeka Bushra won the "Best Bridal

Makeup Artist" at the Best in the Wedding Industry Awards 2019 jointly organised by Jarwa House and ICE Today.

The location of the newly inaugurated salon is House #8, Road #13, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

For more information, visit splendorbyaneekabushra.com

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ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Don't waste time trying to please everyone. Learn to keep your distance. Do things that you enjoy. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Your family may demand explanations. Someone is out to defame you. Use your charm, but don't be phony. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Sit back and observe. Consider getting into self-improvement endeavours. Your charm will bring about romance options. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Someone you like may be receptive. Find ways to expand your friend circle. Be fair in your dealings. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Health problems may arise. Reinvent your image this week. Family members may give you trouble. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Get yourself back into shape. Do the best you can. Time to rearrange your home. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Don't let people entice you into anything. Your charm will entice new lovers. Consider a conservative investment. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Uncertainty about your relationship is prevalent. Don't say the wrong thing. Discuss your ambitions with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Don't let your partner discourage you. Travel will alleviate stress. Look into making extra money. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Opportunities to make advancements will present itself. Avoid hasty decisions. Keep an open mind regarding others. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Catch up on correspondence. You may experience changes at home. Your partner may cost you financially. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Don't let personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Focus your efforts at work. Social events will be plentiful. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



TRADITIONALLY BASANTI

Spring for a Bangladeshi is the love-affair of oranges and reds. Typically referred to as basanti rong, these shades reveal our forever lively Bengali soul. Traditional outfits such as panjabi or sari all deck up in these colours and radiate joy. Not to mention, light cotton pieces are soothing to the eyes and complement the transition well. Adorn yourself with a beautiful 'basanti' attire on your way to a lovely evening or dawlat.

midseason MOODS

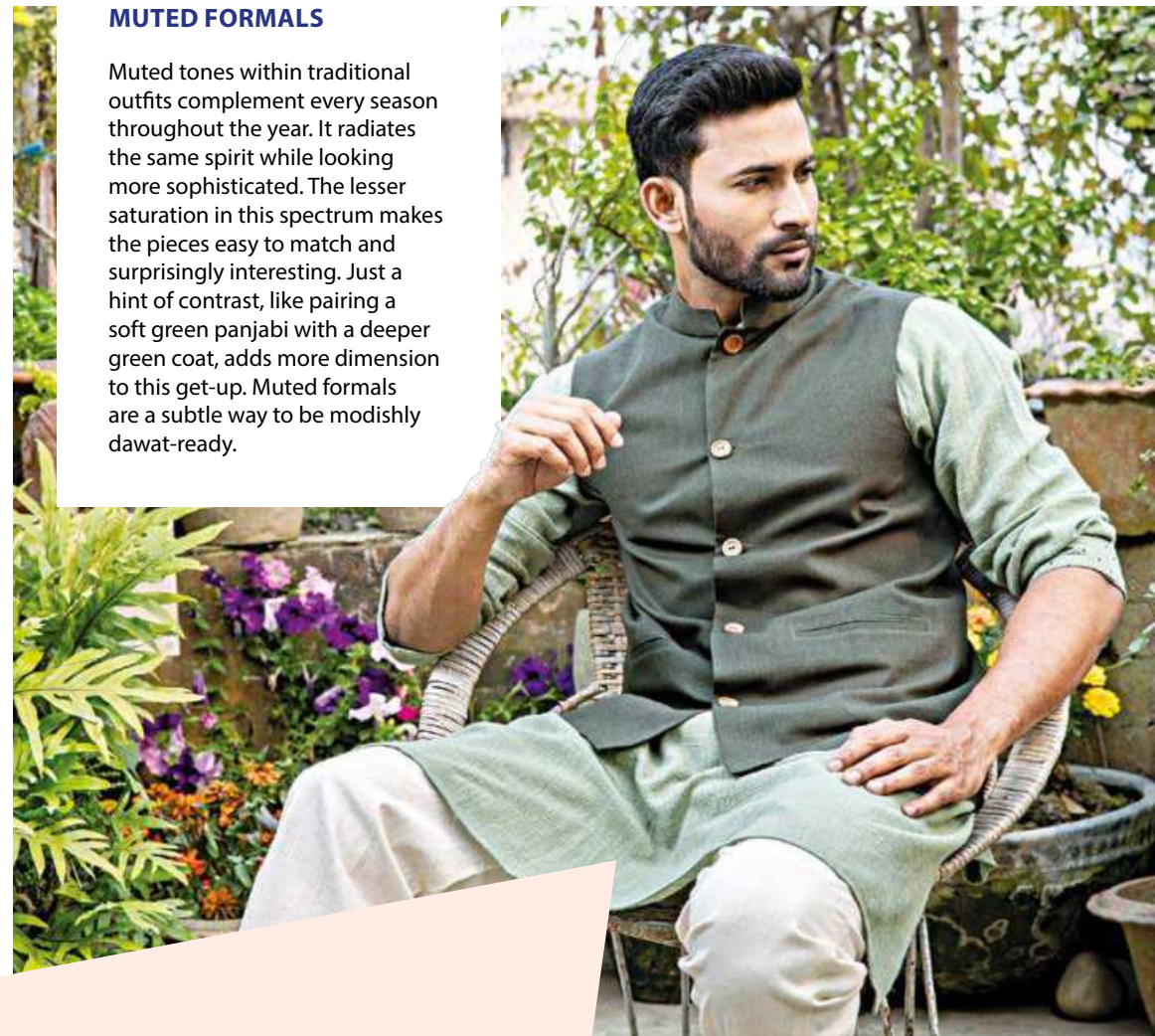
BRIGHT AND BOLD

The mid-season vibe urges you to be bright and bold. Deep hues are alluring and can be beautifully carried throughout the transition. They reflect warmth and grace, making any attire look outstanding. A gorgeous crimson red sari shares the tale of the last days of spring; on the other hand, a dark black panjabi prepares you for the warm summer nights. For the night-time especially, this mix of brights with bolds create a stunning combination that's sublime.



MUTED FORMALS

Muted tones within traditional outfits complement every season throughout the year. It radiates the same spirit while looking more sophisticated. The lesser saturation in this spectrum makes the pieces easy to match and surprisingly interesting. Just a hint of contrast, like pairing a soft green panjabi with a deeper green coat, adds more dimension to this get-up. Muted formals are a subtle way to be modishly dawlat-ready.



SOFTNESS OF SHALWAR-SUIT

Shalwar kameez is a beloved yet versatile choice for any Bengali woman. The beauty lies in its variations as most women love to reflect their personal style with it. It's graceful and suits absolutely every occasion. Whether it's something fancy or a simple get-together, live carefree with the comfort of the suit. And in this time of the year, incorporate bright tones and velvets to look absolutely elegant.

CASUALLY 'DESHI'

Amplify your style by dressing down to the most casual form of a traditional wear. Kurti-styled tops (fatua) with skirts, palazzos translate to a 'desi-boho' fashion that we obsess over. It's fun and easy, with a carelessly charming factor. It keeps you effortless and comfortable, making it the perfect day-to-day wear. From the office to classes and even a fun hangout with friends, style this look for a playful vibe.



By Zohaina Amreen
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Manoshi and Ilias
Wardrobe: Chondon
Make-up: Noyon Ahamed
Styling: Zabin Iqbal Jahin



CHIC IN KAFTAN

Kaftan is a breezy wear that is back in vogue. It's a one-piece dress that will keep you both stylish and comfy this season. Kaftans are meant to feel more relaxed and so, it's perfect to enjoy this calming weather to the fullest. On top of that, it's chic and has an element of glamour to it. Kaftans can be styled as a casual daytime outfit or even as a stunning party-wear.



The next step for Studio Mayasir



Most of us are already aware of the negative effects of mass-produced fashion. But is awareness good enough to make a recognisable change? To start afresh, we must be able to go back to our roots and connect the weavers to the end consumers. We must embrace slow fashion, understand what it means and find ways to blend the process into our modern lives. One such fashion outlet that has already embraced the age-old system is Studio Mayasir by Maheen Khan.

Star Lifestyle recently spoke with Khan to understand the basics of slow fashion and what it takes to revive the ancestral traditions.

What is Studio Mayasir involved with at the moment?

Our fashion outlet has stopped all kinds of retail operations and has completely shifted focus towards developing lines that have a global acceptance. We are doing home collections and fashion accessories like scarves, which have a greater international appeal. We are making cushions, runners, and even dresses using handloom and handcrafted materials. So basically, today, Studio Mayasir has more of a global essence.

Is being global synonymous to being trendy?

We believe in fashion in general, but not in the term 'trendy,' because we advocate for slow fashion which literally means — timelessness. Our collections are one that you can wear anytime and anywhere and yet look in-sync with the modern-day contemporary look.

Studio Mayasir's latest lines have simple designs, simple cuts that are foremost comfortable and minimalistic. Our designs indirectly resonate to being conscious, responsible, and active in promoting a better world.

You are always saying that you are an advocate for slow fashion. How do you define slow fashion?

Good question! Slow fashion is the complete opposite to the fast-paced, mill-produced fashion that we

commonly see today. It involves the manufacture of clothes with the help of local artisans and use of eco-friendly materials, with the ultimate goal of preserving our heritage crafts and the environment. It's a win-win situation for all; our talented artisans get to earn their daily bread and butter, the country gets to preserve its heritage weaves and crafts, and customers get timeless and sophisticated end-products.

How is the new version of Studio Mayasir different from the past? Were you not always an advocate for slow fashion?

Yes, slow fashion always reigned the basics of our designing. However, previously, we did occasionally use some cottons and georgettes which were machine made, solely because the customers demanded them.

Today, things are different. We have embraced new ways to become a conscious citizen of the world. We have realised that the onus is partly on us to teach our clients the benefits of slow fashion. And if we do not initiate the momentum then the thought process will only get lost in translation. Someone has to begin the process, no matter how hard the future may be. Today, Studio Mayasir only promotes handloom items that are absolutely local, sustainable and eco-friendly.

What has been the major inspiration behind the impactful transformation?

We have taken part in the Paris Fashion Week, International Weavers Festival in Malaysia and many other major events in Thailand and USA. We spoke to many buyers in the process and learnt so much from them. And these shows were certainly an eye-opener for us. Because countries like Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and India have already invested heavily on slow fashion and have been quite successful in reviving their old techniques to weaving and crafts. This has certainly encouraged us to move forward with the idea. If they can, why can't we?

So, where can we see Studio Mayasir next?

In the future, we would probably like to explore the Japanese market because their aesthetics are very much similar to ours. They do a lot of hand-crafted work which is relatable to our stitches, quilts, patterns and lifestyle. Plus, the Japanese value handcrafted work and our weaves. So, it is definitely a good market for the handloom industry of our nation.

A few words of wisdom for our readers?

First and foremost, I would like to say that we must know what our culture is all about. It includes hand quilting, our weaves, our figured muslins — Jamdani, indigenous peoples' crafts and handloom, taant, gamcha, lungi, Rajshahi silk, baul music, etc. It is okay to have works of international designers in your wardrobe, but you must also have unique works of your own country in the same wardrobe.

We are here to promote that. Through Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB), we are trying to encourage our designers not to put foreign embellishments like *chumki* and *puti* on everything. For once, we can try highlighting our weaves only, which are gorgeous.

Having said all that, I would like to conclude by saying: We do not need too many things to look attractive, sometimes minimalism and simplicity is the foundation behind sophistication. Let's try to rekindle our classy past, our heritage and try to realise what truly is a Bangladeshi cultural DNA. We need to get back to our roots before it is completely lost.

By Mehrin Mubdi Chowdhury

Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel

Models: Jolly, Tania

Stylist: Zabin Iqbal

Wardrobe: Studio Mayasir by Maheen Khan

Makeup and Hair: Ferdous Ahsan Orko and Shams Romon



#PRESS RELEASE

Meet and Greet Prelude to TRESemmé 'Spring in Bloom'

A three day 'sustainable fashion exhibition' organised by TRESemmé and in partnership with the Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB) will be taking place between 18 and 20 March at the Edge Gallery, North Avenue, Dhaka, to portray the beauty and importance of slow fashion in today's fast paced world.

Flash Shows have been arranged at the programme, dated 19 and 20 March at 6PM sharp to showcase the designers and their elaborate works. The timing for the exhibition has been marked as 10AM to 8PM daily, for all three days.

A meet and greet session had been arranged on 10 March, prior to the exhibition, to introduce the designers and reiterate their reasons behind advocating slow fashion. Influencers and renowned bloggers had been invited at the event to mark their cooperation in teaching the next generation citizens about the benefits of eco-friendly, sustainable fashion, sustenance of heritage, and slow fashion. Maheen Khan, president of FDCB, took some time to speak to this correspondent about the ideology behind the initiative.

"We are slowly losing our culture and getting inclined towards a more homogenous lifestyle. While that is apparent due to the World Wide Web and highspeed Internet, we must also remember to acknowledge our roots. Because once that is lost, we become nobody," said Khan.

Shabit Shafiullah, Category Head – Haircare, at Unilever Bangladesh Limited also spoke to this correspondent regarding the three day event.

"TRESemmé is excited to partner with FDCB for 'TRESemmé Spring In Bloom' Sustainable Fashion Exhibition 2021. Our relationship with FDCB goes a long way and we are happy to support them in their endeavour to uphold and showcase sustainable fashion in the country," said Shafiullah.

Maheen Khan also expressed her feelings about the influencer culture that is common amongst millennials today.

"There are many people who the next generation look up to, and it is our duty to inform them about the uniqueness of our culture, and in turn, their duty to portray the same message to the youngsters. This is probably the best way to get through to the next generation," stated Khan.

And right she is. Because until and unless the next generation is on-board with our intentions to go back to our roots, nothing will ever change; they are the torch bearers and our sole hope to a changed world, a better world that values heritage, uniqueness, and individuality.

By LS DESK

Photo: Shahrear Kabir Heemel

Models: Jolly

Stylist: Zabin Iqbal

Wardrobe: Studio Mayasir by Maheen Khan

Makeup and Hair: Ferdous Ahsan Orko and Shams Romon

FUSION FLAVOURS
CHIANGMI TALUKDER
LENA



Baking art therapy

It is said that baking is about more than just creating something sweet to eat, and has many psychological benefits. It is a productive form of self-expression and communication. And People who bake use any excuse to heat up their ovens.

Baking for yourself and for others is a form of mindfulness. During the pandemic period, many people started their quarantine time baking. It can be a helpful way to communicate one's feelings as well. The whole process of baking not only ease anxiety and stress, but also allows one's mind to wander and create something artistic, which has the benefit of enhancing creative expression. If you want to cheer yourself up and eliminate stresses, it's time to give baking a try.

WATERMELON BREAD

Ingredients

3 cups all-purpose flour
 3 tbsp granulated sugar
 1 cup lukewarm liquid milk
 1 egg yolk
 3 tbsp softened butter
 ½ tsp salt
 2 tsp instant dry yeast
 2/3 cup black raisins

Method

In a bowl, put lukewarm milk, butter, sugar, salt, yeast, and egg yolk, and stir for a while to mix together. Continue adding about 2 cups of flour little by little to make a sticky dough.

Divide the dough into two parts. Take one part and split it in half. Place one big and two smaller parts into 3 separate bowls. Add red or pink food colour to the largest portion of dough and mix until well combined. Put raisins and mix onto a counter. Add flour slowly while kneading, if the bread dough starts to stick. Continue to knead for about 8-10 minutes until the dough is smooth and elastic. Poke any raisins that fall out back into the dough ball. Coat the dough ball lightly with oil/butter and place in a bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and place in a warm spot to rise until it doubles in size.

Repeat the above procedure with one of the small portions of dough by adding green food colour and then add enough flour to knead until smooth and elastic. Place in a covered bowl to rise.

Repeat the same process with last small portions of white dough. No colour required, only add flour and knead. Place into a covered bowl to rise.

After about 1-2 hours, place the red dough ball on the counter, lightly dusted with flour. Punch down to remove large air bubbles and roll into a log shape. The log length should be the same as your bread pan.

Roll out the white dough ball and cover the red log dough with it. Before covering the red dough, brush it with milk or oil. Also brush milk/oil onto white covered log.

Roll out the green dough and cover the white log dough with it. Seal it by pinching hard and place the completed dough into a greased loaf pan. Cover with a damp cloth and let rise.

Bake in a pre-heated oven for 20-30 minutes at 175° C.

APPLE ROSES PUFF PASTRY

Ingredients

2 cups water
 1 medium lemon juice
 2 red apple



3-4 tbsp apple or any flavoured jam
 1 frozen puff pastry sheet, thawed
 Powder sugar for decorating (optional)

Method

Cut the apples into halves and remove the core and seeds. Cut into thin slices, place in a bowl with water and lemon juice and microwave it for about 2-3 minutes. Drain out all the water.

Microwave the jam for 1 minute with a small amount of water, if the jam is too thick.

Unwrap one sheet of thawed puff pastry. Sprinkle small amounts of flour onto the counter and stretch out the sheet with a rolling pin. Cut the sheets into 6 strips, make each strip 2 inches long.

Spread jam onto each strip with a brush and place apple slices, one over another, over halfway from one side of the edge. Fold the bottom half over the sliced apple and roll up carefully and place into greased muffin tray.

Bake at 190° C for about 40-45 minutes.

FOCACCIA BREAD

Ingredients

500g bread flour
 7g dried active yeast
 2 tsp sea salt
 2 tbsp honey
 5 tbsp olive oil
 400ml lukewarm water
 Herbs, vegetables, for decoration

Method

In a mixing bowl, put flour, yeast, sea salt, and mix everything together. Make a well in the middle of the flour and add olive oil, honey and lukewarm water, while adding water gradually until it makes a slightly sticky dough.

Sprinkle the work surface with flour and tip the dough onto it, knead for 8-10 minutes until the dough is soft and less sticky. Put the dough into a clean greased bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave to rise for 1 hour or until doubled in size.

Grease the baking tray with olive oil. Tip the dough and spread, and stretch the dough to fill the baking tray. Cover and leave it for another 30 minutes.

Put little amount of olive oil over the dough and poke with a finger to release air bubble and decorate with herbs and vegetables as desired. Bake 200° C for 15-20 minutes.



PAINTED CHIFFON CAKE

Ingredients

5 egg yolks
 40g sugar
 100ml liquid milk
 50g oil
 Pinch of salt
 Few drops of vanilla essence (or any other flavour as desired)
 120g cake flour

5 egg whites
 80g sugar
 ¼ tsp cream of tartar (optional)
 Food colour (red, pink, yellow, green, etc.)

Method

In a large mixing bowl, mix egg yolks, 40g sugar, milk, oil, salt, and essence together and whisk for about 2-3 minutes until sugar dissolves. Add cake flour and whisk to make a smooth batter.

Beat the egg whites with low speed for about 2 minutes. Then add cream of tartar and 80g of sugar gradually and continue beating for 8-10 minutes with medium-high speed until peak meringue forms.

Add the white meringue to the batter gradually and mix it slowly with cut and fold method.

Divide small portion of batter into few parts, according to your desired drawing. Mix food colour and pour into piping bags with small hole to release batter.

Place a baking paper on your bake tin. Draw desired picture with the coloured batter piping bags and bake on a pre-heated oven for 5 minutes at 175° C.

Remove tin from the oven and put the remaining batter over the baked drawn batter and bake it for another 20-30 minutes. Cool down the cake completely and carefully remove the baking paper. Your painted cake is ready to serve.

Photo and Food: Chiangmi Talukder Lena

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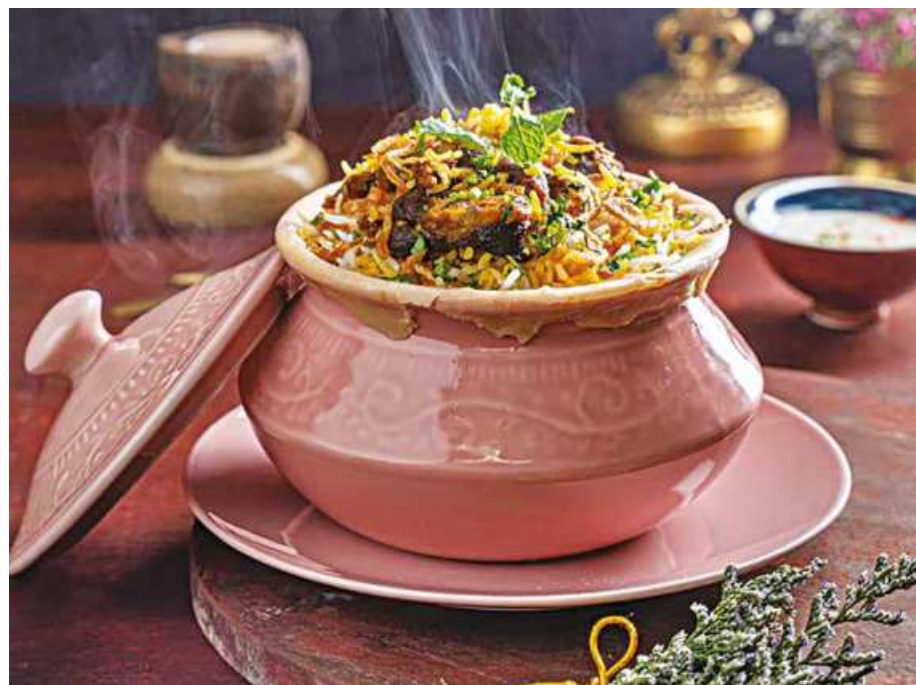
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Khazana reopens at Gulshan 2

With two decades of experience in bringing the best of Indian cuisine, Khazana has reopened its door on 10 March, with an exquisite new venture in Gulshan 2.

The green décor complemented by the golden interior with an outdoor waterfall would just set your mood right once you step foot in the new venture. The ambience speaks of royalty and the heritage of Indian cuisine. The lighting, design and furniture with a soothing music in the background would lift up the spirit of even the most pessimist at heart.



With the inauguration of a new banquet hall equipped with comfortable sitting arrangement, extensive décor and modernised services, one can organise any impressive event. In addition, Khazana will provide you with three additional private dining rooms which are tailored for corporate meetings.

Wait! There's more. With an exquisite rooftop, Khazana would bless you with an outdoor dining experience basking in the clear view of the city.

With exotic ingredients and tongue-tongling flavours, Khazana brings you the authentic Indian cuisine as rich as its culture. Combining an array of spices with wide variety of flavours cooked to perfection, Khazana creates a unique world of great taste.

Taking culinary art to a whole new

height, the presentation of food is one of the main attractions of the new Khazana. Each and every dish on the menu is uniquely stylised according to its taste. Seeking inspiration from gourmet restaurants and international chains, the presentation of each dish is set to look like a piece of art itself.

'Mutton Nalli Rogan Josh' is a must-try item from them. Tender pieces of mutton on bone marrow cooked in a mildly spiced gravy. The meat is perfectly cooked and sizes are well cut with a perfect balance of spices. If that does not interest your tastebud, there's always the choice of biryanis — 'Lucknow Dum pukht Biryani' is one of their signature dishes where the traditional art of cooking raw meat and rice together in 'dum' is maintained.

Everything starting from dahi papri

chaat, paneer pakora to Mumbai Ragra Patties are making its way into the special street food zone inside Khazana Restaurant. It also brings a live kitchen to the forefront so all the consumers can see their food being prepared while adhering to international standards.

So, without further ado, pay a visit to Khazana, your Indian Cuisine getaway, and savour the taste that comes alive in your palate.

By Tahmid Azad Sohan
Photo: Khazana

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সাদার আব এক নাম ফাস্ট ওয়াশ

১০ মিনিটে পাওয়ার ওয়াশিং এর ম্যাজিক

কাপড়ের যে কোন দাগ ময়লাকে নিমিষে দূর করে

কাপড়ের রঙকে রাখে লত্বনের মতো স্বচ্ছকে

Le Reve launches Summer '21: Tutti-Fruity Collection

Le Reve, one of the country's leading fashion and lifestyle brands, launches a great summer collection with a combination of vibrant summer colours, flowers and prints selected from the Spring/Summer style of international runways.



With the latest collection, Le Reve launches the stylish maxi dress for women for the first time, which can be worn at any party, office, or even at home. In addition to that, the collection includes muslin, half-silk and cotton saris, tunics, single shirts, shalwar kameez sets, woven and knit tops.

Casual panjabi and Kabuli sets are a special attraction for men this time. These panjabis will look great even at casual parties indoors and outdoors. There are also semi-fitted, fitted and premium panjabis, long and short-sleeved casual, comfort and formal shirts, t-shirts, and polo shirts.

There are great surprises in the kid's section too. This is the first time Le Reve brought saris for girls and casual panjabi for boys. There are comfortable frocks, ghagra-choli sets, tunics, tops, shirts, salwar-kameezs, woven sets, t-shirts, polo, casual and party shirts as well as special arrangements for new-borns.



Some eye-catching styles have been added to the mini-me segment to match the parents. Siblings' matching clothes are also a special attraction. There are matching pants and pyjamas for everyone in the bottoms collection.

The Le Reve Lifestyle segment includes jewellery, matching masks and sandals, and men's essential fashion accessories. Their entire collection are available at the 16 Le Reve outlets located in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Khulna, Sylhet Darshan Deuri and Naya Road. Customers can also order online at www.lerevecraze.com from any part of the country to get their favourite products home-delivered.

For the convenience of customers, they can opt for online payment or cash on delivery.

For more information, visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/lerevecraze and Instagram [lerevecraze](https://www.instagram.com/lerevecraze).



Footwear brand STEP taking bigger strides

Popular footwear brand, Step, recently launched a new range to cater to the fashion needs of corporate women and young professionals. Shoes are an essential component of fashion, therefore a style statement is incomplete without the right pair.

The changing dynamics of fashion in Bangladesh and its neighbouring countries are encouraging women to try various types of outfits. As a result, wearing the right shoes has become essential for fashion-conscious women, especially corporate and young professionals.

Keeping all these in mind, Step launched the new series at Pink City in Dhaka. The shoes have been especially crafted keeping in mind the style statement of corporates and without compromising the comfort and quality.

Talking about the new range, Forbes Under-30 Youth Icon and Entertainer Raba Khan said, "I always knew STEP as the most comfortable shoes in my collection. But this range is beyond that. It is sleek, stylish and comfortable. You can wear it with any outfit."

Managing Director of Step Footwear Shamim



Kabir said, "Wearing the right footwear is very important for everyone. But we often have to compromise on comfort for stylish shoes or vice-versa. I just wanted my customers to get comfort and style together in one pair."

The new range is available at STEP's newest outlet in Pink City in Gulshan.

