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Expressing The Inner

FLOWER MAIDEN

HOT HUMID EID
HOW TO DO SHORTS P3
WEARABLE ART
RAANUBALA'S BESPOKE PAINTED
SARIS PC
RECIPES FOR THE CHEF IN YOU
SCRUMPTIOUS OPTIONS FOR EID P8

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED
MODEL: NAZIA
MAKEUP: ORKO
WARDROBE: RAANUBALA
JEWELLERY: RONGOBOTI
STYLING: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA



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Organic skincare: Know it better

What is the perfect range of skincare products? Are they safe? Can I rely on reviews? — These are the common questions consumers ask, but nowadays, they are very well-informed and cautious, and know better than to hope for immediate miracles. This is evident in the most recent hype towards organic skincare.

Organic skincare comes from organically produced ingredients i.e. free from preservatives, pesticides, bioengineered genes, and fertilisers. Being completely free of synthetic ingredients, organic products are more or less guaranteed to have no short-term or long-term adverse effects on one's skin.

The primary aim of organic products is to improve the overall condition of the skin. The right amount of potent natural ingredients can help nourish the skin, while repairing generic skin problems.

Macadamia nut oil, for instance, can prevent premature ageing, and reduce



wrinkles and fine lines. Avocado oil works like magic in terms of soothing sunburn and repairing tan, bringing back your skin's healthy natural glow.

With organic products, it is more of a marathon than a sprint. Although mild improvements are likely to show within three to four weeks of usage, it may vary depending on the regularity of use, the ingredients, the absorbing capacity of skin, the severity of the problem, or simply the skin cycle itself.

Organic, natural, herbal, chemical-free,



eco-friendly, cruelty-free, green-sourced, and many such terms can easily confuse and overwhelm anyone. While they all basically come from nature, they are not exactly the same.

Natural products can have pretty much any chemical component as long as the key element is plant-based. Also, being natural does not render it 100 percent harmless. Nature itself has various toxins that maybe poisonous to the skin and hair.

Organic cosmetics follow the same



safety standards as organic food. 'Organic Certification' on these products confirms that 95 percent or more of its ingredients are absolutely chemical-free. The Control Union Bangladesh carries out this verification on local organic brands.

'Soaperstar Bangladesh' and 'Sarin's Store' are well known brands offering a wide range of organic products that target common skin problems faced by Bangladeshi girls. While Soaperstar offers organic handmade soaps, face and body scrubs, facial oil, etc., Sarin's Store concentrates more on various ready-to-use face masks and scrubs.

Shehna Falila Mulk, owner of Soaperstar explained how globalisation and awareness among consumers has resulted in expansion of the local organic market.

"Customers want results," she said. "If an organic product cannot give them that, they will switch. But give them a good organic product that is effective and you have a winner!"

Safa Jahangir from Sarin's Store shared the same view.

"With rising awareness among consumers, organic products are gaining popularity quickly," she said. "However, not everyone is able to spend a sizeable amount of money behind skincare regularly. We aim to provide consumers with quality products at a reasonable price."

'Salsabina's Makeup Artistry' is one of the makeover studios, working with new-age clients.

Salsabina Shorna suggests that it is better to go organic before special occasions than relying on quick brightening facials or creams. The bleach content in these products may sometimes lead to acne breakouts, while causing lasting damage.

Salsabina further added, "Organic cosmetics will take time, but their effect is also relatively more permanent. Problem is, a lot of us lose patience quickly and end up jumping from one product to another. This can sometimes have adverse effects on one's skin."

A concerning issue is that, even after all these organic products being available, a huge portion of consumers still tend to lean towards fairness products. Organic companies often face queries about skin lightening products. Makeup artists will face clients who want to look 'extra bright' for their special day.

Thankfully, this culture is in decline. Improved accessibility to the Internet and reviews by experts, celebrities, and community groups are inspiring more and more people to switch from chemical-intensive to clean-labelled organic skincare.

You can never be too careful when it comes to your skin. So, here are a few final tips when you decide to go organic —

Always choose a credible seller with good reviews.

Go through the ingredients list, just to be safe.

Look out for organic certification or logo.

By Nusrath Jahan

Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad

us on /Sandalina

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#FASHION

A grown man's GUIDE TO SHORTS

Although shorts are often shunned for being too boyish or casual, they become harder to pass up when summer comes around. The fashion police are usually the least of your concerns when temperatures spike up and your sweat glands go into overdrive.

Regardless of the debate surrounding grown men and shorts, there are still a handful of instances when they are acceptable. Casual get-togethers, outdoor recreation, and garden or rooftop parties are perfect excuses to bring your shorts out. With numerous styles ranging from denim cut offs to Bermudas, it all comes down to finding the perfect pair for the event and knowing how to style it.

The three must-haves

Although boardies and denim shorts add the extra youthfulness you may want to steer clear of, tailored chino shorts, Bermuda shorts, and reinvented cargo shorts are the must-haves for any grown man's wardrobe.

Chino shorts are a classic due to their versatility, and the one you should go for when you are first experimenting with shorts outside of loungewear territory. Chino shorts in neutral shades such as sand, beige, or stone can be paired with most button downs, oxford shirts or even polos.

Bermuda shorts are perfect for semi casual events, earning them the 'must-have' label. Whether you are attending a rooftop party or any outdoor gathering where casual shorts may be too risky, this is your go-to. Bermuda shorts usually fall an inch above your knee at their shortest, making them perfect companions for dress shirts regardless of sleeve length. Purchasing ones which are cuffed at the ends will help add extra spruce to your outfit.

Cargos shorts have made an unexpected comeback since 2020 in fashion runways. Although wearing them previously garnered judgmental glares and the occasional laughter, they have been reinvented as of late in the fashion world. They are best paired with utilitarian shirts which compliment them by flaunting just as many pockets.

Pattern and shade inclusions

Shorts give you more freedom to experiment with shades and patterns due to their smaller surface area. Be it subdued polka dots or noticeable stripes, patterns which seem over the top for full length trousers are easier to execute with shorts. If you want to try on a preppy look, plaid with a white base will do the trick. Patterns such as Hawaiian

floral prints are only suitable for swimming trunks.

Classic colours for shorts include beige, navy, olive, and cedar. If you want to experiment with bright colours, you can try out shades similar to lime yellow or salmon, which are vibrant without being too obtrusive. Try not to go overboard with colours by purchasing a pair of neon shorts as they may appear too flashy even on smaller surface areas.

Fabrics to keep an eye out for

If you have decided to introduce more shorts to your wardrobe, it is most likely because you want to heighten your comfort levels. Choosing the most appropriate fabric is crucial if you want to truly alleviate temperature induced adversities.

While most cotton is lightweight and breathable, there are quite a few options of cotton to choose from for shorts. The lightly woven and dimpled surface of seersucker cotton shorts will leave you feeling the breeziest, as it lets more air in than other types of cotton. Madras fabric is another good option for cotton as it is loosely woven, breathable and dries quicker than most, making it the ideal candidate for monsoon.

If you want all the breathable and cooling benefits of cotton without compromising durability, linen shorts are your fix. Linen is more durable and rigid than cotton, making it better at handling wear and tear in the long run. It does all this without trapping in any heat or moisture.

Finishing touches

The accessories and shoes you reach out for right before you head out the door can make or break your outfit. A canvas or leather belt can really tie your whole look together. Although whether or not you put on a belt can really depend on the occasion or your outfit, they become a necessity when your shorts are on the baggier side.

If you want to look polished in shorts, close toed shoes such as loafers or boat shoes are your classiest options. Socks should be avoided if you want to eradicate all hints of boyishness from your outfit. If you absolutely must wear socks, go for ankle socks instead of knee high ones.

Lastly, remember to avoid shorts altogether when it starts to get chilly or when you expect to be around people you have purely formal relationships with.



By **Tasfia Ahmed**
 Photo: **Sazzad Ibne Sayed**
 Model: **Rabbi and Amit**
 Styling: **Sonia Yeasmin Isha**

Picking out your perfect summer fragrance

Even though it might be comforting to cling on to that one fragrance you believe encapsulates your essence all year long, summer may be the only season which rightfully demands a switch up.

A summer friendly fragrance will help you feel fresh and energised all day, while ones which are not fit for it may feel downright nauseating to those around you.

Summer fragrances usually consist of zesty citrus notes, mint, light florals, the scent of berries and the occasional incorporation of ocean inspired notes. As this still leaves a lot of space for nitpicking and indecision, here are five things to consider when picking out your perfect summer fragrance.

Best stored away until winter

A good starting point is to understand what fails to qualify as a summer fragrance all together. Oriental, vanilla, patchouli, powdery floral, and overly sugary notes do not interact well with heat or sweat. Fragrances which tend to incorporate these notes can also be nauseating and suffocating during summer. It is also crucial to pick fragrances, which have a minimal number of notes, and lack complexity when it comes to layers.

Summer fragrances are fresh, light, natural, and minimal in notes. They should make you feel breezy, light and clean wherever you may go which leaves out most oriental, overly sugary or spicy scents due to their heavy overpowering nature.

What's in season?

As long as the fragrance is not too complex or highly concentrated, in-season plants are usually perfect indicators for in-season scents. Fragrances with notes of summer fruits and flowers tend to have just the right



doses of fragrance notes you would want a whiff of during a hot and humid day. If you want something energising, try fragrances which incorporate summer berries, clementine or grapefruit. If you would rather prefer something more calming, opt for summer blooms such as lavender, gardenia, peonies, and jasmine.

Think in colours

The aromatic world describes green scents as ones which are fresh, light, cool and sharp. Think lime, lemongrass, cucumber, grass, peas, mint leaves, coniferous and eucalyptus. Green scents are a necessity if you find yourself outdoors a lot during summer or in hot and humid places in general. The refreshing and revitalising aroma of green notes will keep you crisp even when the high levels of humidity try

to bring you down.

Replicate memories and dreams

Ask yourself which places or things feel essentially summerlike to you. If it's the sight of tropical beaches you hope to visit, try lotions and sprays with layers of coconut, pineapple or ocean inspired notes in them. If it's the memories of gardens you have not visited in years, try something with grass notes. If it's the taste of orange popsicles, look out for citrusy colognes. Replicating pleasant summer memories or dreams in the form of fragrances can be a huge boost to your daily mood.

Blocks and lotion

If you want a lightly fragranced counterpart to typical perfumes, go for a Eau de Toilette, solid perfume or a scented lotion. These three options are lightly fragranced, making

them ideal for summer weather. Eau De Toilette is one of the least concentrated types of cologne and perfect for summer days when heavy scents can have unpleasant effects.

Solid perfumes are another option, with the added benefits of being long lasting due to its tendency to cling to skin. If you prefer a two-in-one product which moisturises your skin while also leaving it scented, scented lotions will be your friend.

Finally, remember to test the fragrance out if possible, as they usually interact with your body pH in unique ways, which transforms how the fragrance works. As long as it smells crisp and clean even after you try it on, you are good to go.

By **Tasfia Ahmed**

Photo: **Collected**



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ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Don't take betrayal sitting down. Your wit will bring greater popularity. Unexpected visitors are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



TAURUS (APR. 21-MAY 21)

Don't overspend on luxury items. Use your head wisely in tricky situations. Don't expect everyone to be overjoyed. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



GEMINI (MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Don't lose control of your emotions. You'll meet likeminded people. Be careful when dealing with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



CANCER (JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

You will be emotional about your personal life. Put in some overtime at work. Don't jump the gun. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



LEO (JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. Do the things you enjoy. Concentrate on your career. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.



VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Catch up on overdue correspondence. Don't be too quick to voice your opinion. Listen to others carefully. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA (SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

You will attract potential lovers. Don't be too demanding. Put your money away for a rainy day. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SCORPIO (OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Competitive games will be your forte. Make extra money. Get back to the comforts of home. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Sign up courses that will enlighten you. Secret love affairs are not advised. Plan a pleasure trip. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Concentrate on your work. Physical activities will make you feel better. Don't beat around the bush. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



AQUARIUS (JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Implement your ideas into projects. Your involvement in events can lead to exciting opportunities. Cheer yourself up. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



PISCES (FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

You can ask for favours. Relatives may be hiding the truth. Social events may lead to romantic interlude. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



#FASHION

The story of RAANUBALA

Piyush Kanti Sarkar's juxtaposed love for posies of flowers and nature has the traditional Bengali fashion scene abuzz with Raanubala, an online outlet creating just the most mesmerising pieces of saris you have probably ever laid eyes upon.

It is amazing how a mundane idea for a unique gift has magnified the delicious trend of hand-painting in saris, putting Sarkar, a humble artist and teacher, in the leagues of couturiers like Saimoon Amin and Nighat Imam.

"I was under the tutelage of renowned Bangladeshi artist Shishir Bhattacharjee, when studying art at university. He'd encourage me to produce detailed watercolour paintings and create delicate works of art. In 2017, I put my skill to good use when I decided to gift my wife something unique and true, something that I could create myself, perhaps to show her how much she meant to me," recalls Sarkar, "and that is when the epiphany of painting a sari to give to her struck me."

FLIP TO CENTRE FOR THE FULL STORY

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Nazia
Makeup: Orko
Wardrobe: Raanubala
Jewellery: Rongoboti
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

#FASHION



Star **LIFE** Style



After a flurry of compliments and word-of-mouth quickly spreading upon his first creation, Sarkar continued creating more and more stunning pieces of sari-cum-art upon exclusive requests and selective orders. And, with that, Raanubala was uncovered.

Unfolding THE TALE *of* RAANUBALA

"I named my page 'Raanubala' after my mother who, sadly, passed away a few years ago. Thinking back to when we were growing up, my mother was a great enthusiast of art and loved home décor. That love shined through everything she did: from the way she fluffed the pillows in the living-room to how she carried herself with grace, from how she designed immaculate alponas in the front yard to how she routinely planted seedlings in our garden to breathe new life into our home," shares Sarkar.

"Her love for nature transpired in me and, through Raanubala, I wish to impart the same love into whoever wears my saris," envisions Sarkar.

This is where the motifs painted on the beds of Sarkar's saris dry up to evoke stories of nature, the kind he wishes to glorify. Blazing purple bluebellvines spurring to blossom, blush pink lotuses blooming despite the muddiest of waters, and pristine ginger lilies are all ornaments of nature Sarkar has hand-painted onto saris.

Even with the most common flowers like vermilion hibiscuses or flame-of-the-forest vines, what sets Sarkar's art apart are tonal shades of details, captured impeccably with fabric paint and romanticised beautifully onto a plain sari.

Raanubala only manifests in paint upon Bengali taant, which are weaves of cotton threads, light and airy in texture and the perfect companion for humid summer days.

Every hand-painted floral sari at Raanubala is sold at a flat rate of Tk 3500, but portraying a quintessential Bengali belle in a Raanubala original is minimalistic. What Raanubala epitomises is the quiet glamour and alluring charm of a Bengali beauty. Soft tinted cheeks and jasmynes adorning a tantalising hair bun are enough as is to set your gazer's heart on fire. Coupled with a hand-painted Raanubala taant and jangles of oxidised silver jewellery, you would scream grace and poetry without ever even uttering a word!

Sarkar idealises Raanubala to check three boxes: to spread literacy and appreciation for Bengal's flowers, to nurture a love for art through his sartorial creations, and finally, to immortalise his mother's memory through his initiative.

If successful, what Sarkar hopes to revel in is the eternal love and essence of Raanubala, always by his side, passed on in memory.

By Ramisa Haque
Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Model: Nazia
Makeup: Orko
Wardrobe: Raanubala
Jewellery: Rongoboti
Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

Essentials
Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/raanubala>
For orders, call 01718-137696



Energy saving fan from VISION

Bangladesh is a country with strive and potential. For a developing country, energy and environment are two very important factors and it is vital that energy is conserved even at mass consumption. If one could save energy from daily used devices, it would be crucial for the environment. In addition, if those devices were produced in Bangladesh, that would be an additional gain for everybody. Could there be such an option?

VISION offers such a fan for your consideration. With the tag 'VISION Smart Saver Fan,' you can imagine that it focuses on conserving energy and that is exactly what it does. While most ceiling fans operate at 80W-85W, VISION Smart Saver Fans operate at only 65W. Which means that these fans are 30 percent more efficient than ordinary fans.

With AC being not so affordable for the majority of our people and the easy installation of ceiling fans, it's common that anywhere that has a wired connection of



electricity, you will find ceiling fans. The climate in this country is not very forgiving and the warm weather lingers for the better part of the year. Which means that the fans run throughout the year and it can have an effect on the electric bill. So, the ideal solution would be to have a fan like VISION Smart Saver fan that saves energy and reduces the cost.

With a build of 99.99 percent pure copper wire, these fans are designed with aerodynamics in mind and aluminium blades to go with that — resulting in maximum air delivery throughout the room. This can be useful in warm days when the temperature feels unbearable as well as humid days following a few days of rain when the room feels damp. The air flow can really help with that annoying dampness that makes you feel like it's under your skin.

As the smart saver fans conserve energy, they are environment friendly. This is an important issue in the modern context and we'd be wise to save as much energy as possible if we wish for a better future. This conservation in energy also means that the user can acquire the value of the product within three years.

Safety wires are implemented in design for prevention of accidents and chrome steel ball bearing motors ensure that the fans can operate whisper quiet, which is a very important feature for a ceiling fan, especially if you are buying them for your office. Remember those fans from your high school that were so old and so noisy that you could not hear a word of what your teacher was saying? It would be most undesirable if something happened at your office and you missed out on the important instructions from your boss. Whisper quiet motion of VISION smart saver fans ensure that you will not find yourself in such a predicament because of a noisy fan. You need to make a call? Stay inside — the fan is quiet enough.

Ceiling fans are not well known for styles but VISION can help there too. From

'Royal' to 'Dreamy' — they have a number of different styles that are suitable for different rooms of the house. You can match them with the colour of your walls and the outlook of the room so it will feel like part of the setup; not something alien.

As the smart saver fans are friendly for year around operation; if you add the dimmer control to it, it can suit you in any season. The minimum energy consumption makes it a very budget friendly addition for your home.

All of the VISION smart saver ceiling fans offer seven year warranty.

For more information, visit their website: <https://vision.com.bd/>

By Ashif Ahmed Rudro
Photo: VISION



#BEAUTY

Indulging in Rain Shower for soft-supple skin

With a rising concern for personal hygiene, the range of products related to cleanliness and self-care has expanded all over the world with numerous brands offering a variety of products. One of the more appreciated and demanded products in this category are bathing shower gels.

With the growing trend, the demand and usage of shower gels have also increased in Bangladesh. Although it was difficult to find authentic and affordable shower gels in nearby shops a couple of years ago, the situation has changed for the better. Nowadays, shower gels have become quite a common sight in shops and a must-have product among many consumers.

In today's world of skincare and hygiene products, most people look for authentic foreign brands, which often strike as more reliable and of better quality. Assuming that such imported skincare and hygiene products are the best of the best, we are often left vulnerable to expensive knockoffs and counterfeits.

In this scenario, Square Toiletries launched its shower gel, known as 'Rain Shower,' about a year ago. This shower gel offers a soothing, reliable and also an affordable way to take care of one's skin with utmost comfort and ease.

The essence of Rain Shower can be extracted from the sensory experience we indulge in during the rainy season.



The shower gel's earthy and nourishing perfume with its blend of fruits, flowers, spices and herbs provides a cleansed and fresh feeling, both physically and mentally. This captivating fragrance creates a sensation filled with solace and recreates

the ambience of getting drenched in the rain. As we soak ourselves in nature's rainfall and get lost in the rainy environment, the monsoon season welcomes us like a warm hug, rejuvenating the mind and soul.

Rain Shower's enchanting fragrance fills one with the nostalgic embrace of the rainy season. It helps us to relive and to experience these delightful monsoon moments all year around, bringing in a sense of tranquillity and comfort.

Not only is the unisex product a pacifying addition to one's daily routine of self-care, it also benefits the skin in more ways than one. Along with the benefits of soap, Rain Shower bears more advantages due to its impeccable moisturising properties. This aids the smoothness and glow of skin, while retaining its gentle and soft sense of touch. Unlike other products, the post-feel of Rain Shower is not slippery or drying. After using the revitalising shower gel, the skin is reborn, graced with a refreshed, moisturised and soothing feeling and appearance.

Living in an urban, fast-paced society,

most of us lose touch with nature and our surroundings. Consequently, we detach ourselves from our emotions and mental well-being. Just as nature's shower tends to wash away all our worries and anxieties, Rain Shower brings in the same feeling of weightlessness. Proving to be a reliable option for hygiene, the product makes self-love and self-care easily accessible for both the body and mind. Recreating a calm and relaxing sensation, the shower gel gives us a well needed break from our daily responsibilities and concerns. All in all, the product transcends its ability to protect and nourish skin health, which helps us to look and feel our best, and extends its enthralling attributes to easing our minds by adding an essential touch of nature to our daily lives.

To have Rain Shower Gel delivered straight to the doorstep, anyone can call the toll free care of Square Toiletries Limited- 08000888000.

By Puja Sarkar
Photo: Square Toiletries Limited

Sustainable fashion with Lá Mode

We often assume that foreign brands entail a better quality product. This belief takes away credit and beauty from our own local goods and crafts. To restore consumer faith in the tag “Made in Bangladesh” both locally and internationally, Fahmida Islam and Fahim Shafiqul Islam started Lá Mode, a small local business selling handcrafted bags and footwear, which continues expanding even today, in 2021. The two entrepreneurs started off their business with an intention of putting our local heritage and craftsmanship under international spotlight.

Unlike most other fast fashion companies, Lá Mode’s

target is not just to create fashionable footwear and handbags and stay up to date with trends. The business aims to elevate their customers through their hard work of creating unique designs, extracting inspiration from their climate and locality.

Essentially, the products are not only fashionable and a chic addition to one’s wardrobe, but also an embodiment of the country’s heritage. What sets Lá Mode apart is their inspiration from their local surroundings and people, and also their attention to customer feedback to add personal touches to the designs.

This monsoon, Lá Mode has introduced weatherproof Plexi Flats, which remain resistant to water damage. Seeking inspiration from nature’s subtle beauty after a peaceful

and calming rain, the sandals come in a range of decadent colours adding a touch of colour and magic. Other than that,

slippers, mules, loafers, ballerina flats, platform heels, kitten heels, sling backs, ankle straps, Oxford shoes, wedges, gladiators and more designs are available ensuring something for everyone and every occupation.

As the brand is still growing, while

maintaining its quality and sustainability goals, footwear for men and children have not yet reached the shelves; nevertheless, both demographics are a part of their expansion interest.

Lá Mode also provides unique and fun DIY jewellery making kits consisting of ten different pieces of faux leather scraps along with various jewellery making tools. This kit is not only a creative way to make leather jewellery like earrings and bracelets with unique designs, but also a fun activity to do with family and friends!

Additionally, Lá Mode’s DIY Tote bags, 100 percent cotton and stitched by their own female artisans from Cox’s Bazar, entail that one can design thread patches as per their liking.

Lá Mode’s range of creative products do not stop here. They have started taking steps to ensure sustainability from this year. The intention behind this step was to provide something valuable for their clients but also less taxing on the environment. All their products are made from faux leather, ensuring cruelty free footwear, bags, and jewellery. Additionally, to reduce waste, the brand now reuses leather scraps. Although taking such green initiatives was not an easy habit to adapt to, the brand remains determined to fight for the environment.

A significant part of Lá Mode’s sustainability is to reduce and reuse. In the last few months, the brand has reduced wasteful production prominently and has encouraged

circular fashion and boosted their production based on demand, whether it is seasonal or not.

This assures durability and keeps stocks fresh and up-to-date.

Furthermore, they plan on going local and supporting local resources as importing material can contribute to carbon footprints and boost self-dependency in the economy respectively.

Currently, three stores are open across Dhaka — Dhanmondi, Bailey Road and their flagship store in Banani, however, strictly on appointment basis. Keeping safety in mind, a “Virtual Shopping Experience” service is provided where clients can book an appointment on working days to receive a personalised tour of the store from the comfort of their homes.

With Eid-ul-Adha coming up, Lá Mode has exciting things in store, with options ranging from casual to formal, and everything in-between. Better keep an eye out on their website, Facebook, and Instagram pages!

Lá Mode is proud to be representing Bangladeshi craftsmanship at home and abroad, being available on Amazon Prime for swift overseas delivery. Their footwear lines are handmade with love by their *karigars*. They also take orders where one can add a touch of uniqueness as personal accessorising. All in all, Lá Mode is the one stop needed to support sustainability and also get unique and creative with footwear, jewellery, and bags.

By Puja Sarkar
Photo: Lá Mode



#PRESS RELEASE

Nakshi Kantha T-shirt: New innovation of Jothashilpa

Jothashilpa is a centre for traditional and contemporary arts. Since its inception, it has been working to promote, revive, develop and enhance the value of local arts in Bangladesh. With the aim of building a bridge between traditions and technologies by developing innovative products for modern day life, Jothashilpa brought Nakshi Kantha T-shirts for the first time in the Bangladeshi market.

The idea behind the new Nakshi t-shirts comes from an inspiration to promote and revive our Nakshi Kantha traditions, including ancient Satgaon kanthas (commonly known as Satgaon Quilts). In 16th century Bengal’s Satgaon, Portuguese merchants commissioned a special kind of quilt to Bengali artists based on European



designs.

The ingenuity of these quilts lies in the Bengali artists’ creativity and ability to blend foreign designs onto the traditional

kanthas. As the Portuguese left our country in 18th century, the production slowly died away. But the extraordinary Satgaon artists left a permanent mark in the artistic growth of the Bengal’s quilts.

Our rural artists still proudly carry the tasteful and aesthetic tradition of Nakshi Kantha. But unfortunately, the technology-based Euro-centric civilisation and lifestyle are rapidly taking over the world today. So, the traditional art practices are fading away and the local artists are constantly struggling.

Jothashilpa intends to pay homage to these artists and their age-old craft. The new Nakshi t-shirts are an effort to introduce our traditional hand embroidery to the world in a new,

fashionable form. It is also an initiative to sustain our rural artisans by providing them with a livelihood and proper recognition.

One of the new Nakshi t-shirts has landscapes of six seasons hand embroidered in style of Nakshi Kantha directly on them. The other one is decorated with unique Satgaon Kantha motifs. The t-shirts are available between 10AM and 8PM at Jothashilpa centre in Dhaka’s Adabor. Customers can also order the products online from their website and Facebook page.

Website: <http://www.jothashilpa.com/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/jothashilpa/>

#EDUCATION

Towards regaining Dhaka University's glory

The esteemed University of Dhaka just celebrated its centenary less than a week ago, and love, respect and tributes to this beloved alma mater of thousands of alumni have been rightly expressed these few days. However, as we celebrate the once towering centre of learning, it is also time that those of us associated with it take a deeper look at what concerns plague the university, and how to go back to being the proverbial "Oxford of the East."

Dhaka University, in the larger context, remains one of the best things that had ever happened to this part of Bengal. It was established following the same residential model as the University of Oxford, and that, as well as the respect it earned in academia is why it is often referred to as the Oxford of the East.

P. J. Hartog, the first vice chancellor of DU, was a former registrar of London University, and thus experienced, he believed that ultimately the quality of the teachers determines the quality of a university. To that end, he restructured the existing salary scale of teachers in the subcontinent, and offered salaries much higher than those of Calcutta University, the closest, regional and established competitor of DU. Dhaka University thus advertised for the Professor post with the salary scale of 1000-1800 and for a Reader 600-1200 rupees. This gained Dhaka university a cache of esteemed names like Ramesh Chandra Majumder, Satyendra Nath Bose, K.S. Krishnan and others as faculty.

An early pride point for Dhaka University was definitely the birth of quantum statistics in 1924, also known as Bose-Einstein statistics. K.S. Krishnan of Tamil Nadu, and C.V. Raman, at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta, worked on the Raman Scattering, for which C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize. Building on that, S.N. Bose,

then the head of Physics at DU, sitting at Curzon Hall, far from the then epicentre of knowledge of physics and particularly quantum mechanics in Germany, made history by pioneering quantum physics.

Dhaka University was blessed to have many other renowned teachers like Dr Mohammed Shahidullah, Kazi Mutahar Hossain a close friend of S.N. Bose, Govinda Chandra Dev and many more. In its history, it has produced scholars that have led the country in various fields, including economics, finance, governance and of course, the sciences.

Dhaka University experienced the pinnacle of its academic glory between 1924-1945. It suffered immensely during the partition of India, as many scholars like S.N. Bose left for India. However, due to the good momentum, it still continued to maintain its standards.

The teachers and students of Dhaka University played a leading role over the years from 1952-1971 and the birth of Bangladesh. But gradually, as the university got involved more and more in politics, the very purpose of its existence started to get neglected. The exodus of Hindu scholars to India, and the murder of numerous teachers and students in the Liberation War, made things even worse.

Despite DU's fabled role in the independence of Bangladesh, no government except Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's did enough to revert it to its lost glory. Out of respect for the teachers of the university, Bangabandhu gave autonomy to the university through the now famous '73 Act. However, many teachers of Dhaka University took that as an opportunity to get more involved in politics rather than in teaching and research — a clear breach of the sacred trust of teaching. After 1975, the university became fertile grounds for political parties either trying to grab power or unseat the one already holding

it. During the 80s and 90s, although to the benefit of the country, revealed the worst of this for the university. After the fall of Ershad in 1990, the university, once famous for its anti-establishment role, saw its teachers and students becoming soldiers of the same.

A steady process of quality degradation started since, and has accelerated in recent years. Higher education is very expensive. No matter where the money comes from, the point is that the flow has to be constant. Today, one of the most crucial problems of the university is the fund crisis. Students must be given simple but decent residential halls with at least a bed, a study table and a wardrobe, along with common cooking and toilet facilities. This is the minimum a student can ask for! Instead, we see 40-60 students stuffed in the so called "gono-rooms" that should accommodate no more than four. These are mainly first year students, for whom, getting a seat in the hall is almost impossible otherwise; preference is given to senior students. The older the students, the higher the chances to get a seat. But in the rest of the world, first year students are given top priority since they are the most vulnerable. Political parties exploit these youngsters, as freshmen are forced to kowtow to political student leaders in return for forced participation in rallies and such. Most of them spoil their life right there.

Dhaka University is sliding downwards in world rankings. In 2011-12, it was at number 551, in 2014-2015 at number 701 and this year, it is between 800-1000. Such a fast sliding is unheard of and yet, there is no soul searching. Departments have been opened without even thinking whether they are relevant for the country, whether there are qualified teachers, adequate accommodation for the added students etc. On the other hand, the budget allocation,

considering the increased number of students, teachers, officers and inflation, has actually decreased proportionally.

Dhaka University has failed to evolve on a survival instinct. Changing with time is the essence of improvement. The university's questions patterns and answer script evaluation process are still the same as a 100 years ago. Tuition fees have not increased although prices of everything including people's salaries have increased manifold. Essentially, government allocations have decreased, while the number of universities have multiplied.

Today, the first order is to improve the living conditions of our first- and second-year students. You will see a miracle. Appoint 100 world-class post-docs and engage them to work with the best researchers of the university, so together, they can produce world-class home-grown PhDs. Establish income-based tuition fees according to the equity and not the equality principle. Most good universities in the world do that. Essentially, every student will pay the same amount but poorer students will pay the amount from the scholarship they get from the university. Any extra earnings can be used for other essential facilities. In that way, university would lessen its dependency on the government, thus the party in power. Money could also be collected from alumni donations. In western countries, especially in USA, Canada, Australia, universities receive huge sums of money from alumni as a tribute to the university for making them who they are.

The path to lost glory is not simple, but sustained and pertinent actions based on honest and deep soul searching will surely get us there.

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এখন
ফাস্ট ওয়াশ
ডিটারজেন্ট পাউডার
১ কেজির সাথে
১ টি ৫৭০ লব্ধীসোপ ফ্রী!

with color guard
বাঁচলো ঢাকা ১৮
Fast wash
DETERGENT POWDER
১০ POWER WASH

KOHINOOR CHEMICAL

DESHI MIX
SALINA PARVIN



For an Eid luncheon

By the way things are shaping up, we might be facing yet another socially distanced Eid. It's hard to get psyched for such a reality when Eid's are supposed to be all about closing the distance. How to get your spirits up then, you ask? Why, delicious mouth-watering food of course! And with these recipes, you and everyone in your home will have no trouble celebrating Eid merrily.

PESHAWARI CHAPLI KABAB

Ingredients

½ kg beef or mutton mince
2 chopped tomatoes
2 eggs
5 green chillies, chopped
½ tsp black pepper powder
1 tsp coriander powder
1 tsp cumin powder
1 tbsp dry pomegranate seeds powder
½ tsp red chilli powder
2 tbsp maize flour
½ tsp chilli flakes
2 tbsp mint leaves, chopped
Oil for frying
Salt to taste

Method

In a bowl, mix all ingredients except oil and tomatoes. Cover it and refrigerate for 30 minutes. Add tomatoes just before frying. Heat some oil in a pan. Make big flat kebabs. Shallow fry the kebabs till golden. Serve hot with rice or roti.

BEEF GLASSY

The term 'glassy or glaze' was a misrepresentation of the word glaze by the cooks in the olden days. Beef glassy is a traditional and popular recipe of old Dhaka. It is supposed to have thick oil layer, which looks like glass. Although this is a very rich dish, you can make it yourself by following the recipe.

Ingredients

1 kg beef
1 cup onion paste
1 tsp red chilli powder
½ cup thick milk
2 tbsp curd
2 tbsp ginger paste
1 tbsp garlic paste
1 tbsp peanut paste
1 tbsp pistachio paste
6-7 whole green chilli
2 cinnamon
4 cardamom
2 tbsp raisin
¼ cup grated mawa
½ tsp nutmeg and mace powder
1 cup fried onions
6 boiled eggs
2 tsp ghee
½ cup oil
Salt to taste

Method

Wash beef and mix with onion paste, ginger-garlic paste, red chilli powder, curd, milk, nut-paste, nutmeg, mace salt, and oil. Let it marinate for half an hour.

Heat oil in a pan. Add marinated beef and cook for 10 minutes while stirring. Add ½ cup of water, cardamom, cinnamon, and mawa. Cook for 20 minutes with the lid on. Then add green chillies, raisins and aloo-bokhara and half of the fried onions.

Cook in very low flame for 10 minutes. Remove from heat when the meat is tender and oil floats over. Garnish with the remaining fried onion and eggs. Serve hot.

MUTTON CHOPS

Ingredients

1 kg mutton chops
2 tbsp raw papaya paste
½ cup plain yoghurt
1 tbsp ginger paste
1 tbsp garlic paste
2 tsp red chilli powder
1 tsp turmeric powder
1 tsp shahi garam masala powder
2 tbsp poppy seeds paste
2 tbsp cashew paste
200g butter or ghee
½ cup oil
1 tbsp sugar
Salt to taste

Method

In a wide dish, marinate meat with raw papaya paste and a spoonful of yoghurt. Papaya paste acts as a natural meat tenderiser. Leave it for 3-4 hours.

Now, wash the chops and pat them dry. In a mixing bowl, mix yoghurt with all the wet and dry spices. Season the mixture with salt and sugar. Rub the spice mixture well on both sides of the chops. Allow it to rest for an hour.

Heat oil and ghee in a wide frying pan. Now reduce

the heat and arrange the mutton chops in a single layer. Cook it covered on very low heat. Frequently remove the lid and mix the spices. Fry the chops till both sides turn tender and golden brown.

If you want, sprinkle rose water over and keep it covered till you serve. Enjoy with biriyani or paratha.

CHICKEN TIKKA MASALA

Ingredients

2 chicken breasts, skinned (cut into small pieces)
2 tsp tandoori masala
2 tbsp yoghurt
3 tbsp single cream
2 tomatoes
2 tsp ginger paste
4 clove garlic paste
3 tbsp oil
2 bay leaves
2 onions, chopped
2 red chillies, chopped
¼ tsp turmeric powder
¼ tsp paprika
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cumin
¼ tsp

garam masala
2 tbsp fresh coriander leaves

Method

Put the tandoori masala into a bowl with yoghurt, mix well, then add the chicken pieces and mix again. Keep it into the fridge for 1-2 hours. Preheat the oven to 180° C. Bake the chicken pieces for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, blend together the cream, tomatoes, ginger, garlic in a bowl, and set aside. Heat oil in a pan, add bay leaves and onion. Fry the onion until golden brown.

Add the chillies, turmeric, paprika, cumin, coriander, garam masala, and salt. Mix well and stir for 1 minute. Add the chicken pieces and fry for 5 minutes. Then add tomato and cream. Cover and cook on low heat for another 5 minutes.

Add half cup of water and cook for 3 minutes. The curry should look red and creamy, and its texture should be thick and fairly smooth. Turn off the heat. Pour into a serving dish and garnish with the coriander leaves.

Serve with rice, paratha or naan.

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed
Food and Styling: RBR

