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Star
Life
Style

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Flagbearers of slow and sustainable fashion

Eleven distinguished fashion designers from Bangladesh were the flag bearers of our country at the Aspara Fashion Week 2021, held in Kazakhstan.

One of the most important fashion extravaganzas in Asia, this year saw the first virtual edition of the fashion exhibition, organised between 7 and 10 October, 2021. It was a tremendous success by all means, and will certainly pave the way for how future fashion shows will be organised.

The last two years have been a difficult phase, but the resilience of the people involved is breathing new life to the local industry.

At Star Lifestyle, we promote local artisans, and endorse slow and sustainable fashion. This week, we showcase the participants, who are also part of Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB), at the show.

Flip through the pages to read about the most distinguished designers who are etching a mark on the fashion scene and taking a positive image of the country to foreign lands.

PHOTO: UTURN PRODUCTION
MODEL: HIRA
WARDROBE: MAHEEN KHAN
MAKE-UP: ORKO
CO-ORDINATION: SONIA YEASMIN ISHA



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lifestyle_2021

Faiza Ahmed: Defining fashion and style through spirituality



In the dynamic world of fashion where trends constantly come and go, everyone has their unique style. Your own style is a representation of yourself — it defines how you choose to build your aura. Style can be a mode of communication; it can make a statement on its own. Style can also be used to convey the message of spirituality.

Such was the theme for Faiza Ahmed, a participant in the eighth season of Aspara Fashion Week, an international fashion show that is held annually in Kazakhstan. Eleven distinguished fashion designers from Bangladesh who are also part of Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB) were the flag bearers of our country in this global affair.

Faiza Ahmed, who has made her mark



in the fashion industry through her work at Manas, has always had a distinct approach towards fashion.

"I take inspiration from music, literature, art, and history and my fashion philosophy is to portray our literature and history through fashion. I try to revive historical places and figures by bringing them back into our contemporary lifestyle while also accentuating the simplicity and beauty of our everyday wear over gaudy attire," Faiza Ahmed explained.



This philosophy seemed to coincide with her theme for Aspara Fashion Week as she depicted the peace and spirituality contained in Buddhism through fashion. Her line up of dresses displayed simplicity in its truest form with no frills or extravaganza associated with them.

"We see monks dressed in the most rudimentary way possible as they drape a long piece of cloth around their body. This is where I developed my idea from and kept my array of attires in their most basic form," said Faiza.

Faiza Ahmed's exhibition in the fashion show not only portrayed a particular style but coherently amalgamated the essence of spirituality in ways aplenty. For added effect, some symbols borrowed from

Sanskrit which translate to hope and peace were hand painted on the bodies of models.

Furthermore, the music played was a Tibetan chant and the choreography was based on various yoga poses that can calm the mind. All these factors cohesively brought the entire line-up under synchronisation while reverberating spirituality in myriad ways.

The colour palette of the assemblage showed varying shades of yellow to yellow-ochre with the addition of black and white. There was not a mirk of ostentatiousness as no accessory or jewellery were paired with the attires that included shorts, tops, backless gowns, and full-sleeve gowns.

Faiza Ahmed's participation in Aspara Fashion Week not only created a style statement but gave us a fresh look at how fashion and spirituality can go hand-in-hand while providing a unique perspective of the fashion arena.

By Fariha Amber
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Faiza Ahmed
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



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ঐতিহ্যের আর এক নাম আধুনিকতা
 ঠিক যেমন রূপচর্চার আভিজাত্য মানেই

অ্যান্ডালিনা

সোপ

রূপচর্চার আভিজাত্য...

#FASHION & BEAUTY

THE SWADESHI MOVEMENT

inspires couturier Emdad Hoque

The purpose of the Aspara Fashion Week 2021 was to showcase garments, local textiles and fashion designs of different counties on an international platform. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event was held virtually via Zoom.



in Emdad's work. Other materials like silk have also been used for accessories.

"I have included caps with all my designs as caps are somewhat my signature. My entire theme was 'Rhythm of Fabrics' because I wanted to represent the various local fabrics of our country and how they blend with one another so harmoniously. Bangladesh is a colourful country and I wanted to keep that feature in all my work," said Emdad.

He also mentioned that he tried to make his work simple and raw, yet trendy and fashionable. The khadi for all of Emdad Hoque's collections were collected from the Gandhi Ashram at Noakhali, Bangladesh.



The Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh (FDCB) took part in the event where the work of 11 Bangladeshi fashion designers were displayed.

"FDCB feels very proud to have been part of such an esteemed programme where we got the opportunity to share the beauty of Bangladeshi fashion with the rest of the world," said Emdad Hoque, Vice-President of FDCB.

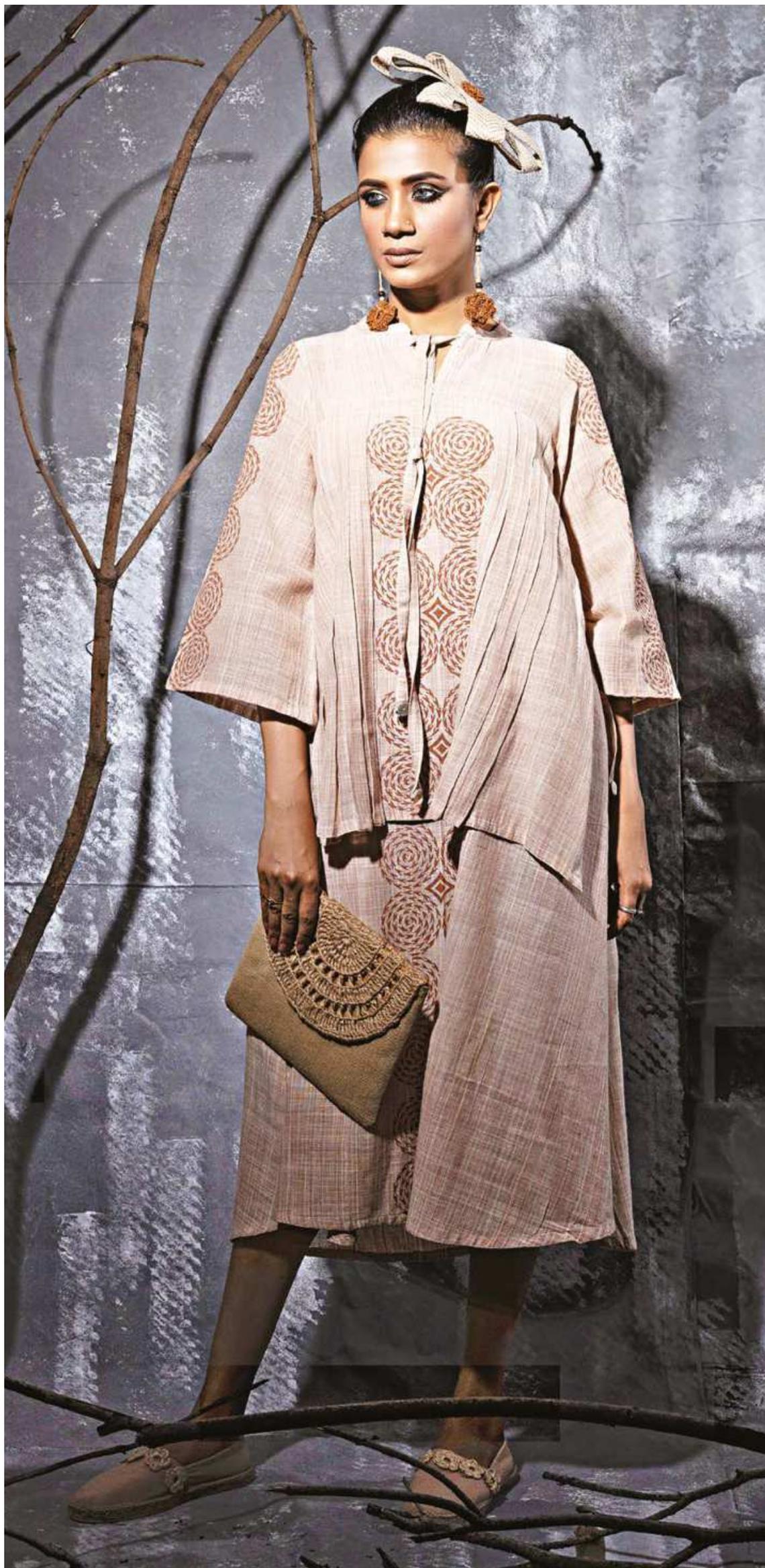
All the participating members of FDCB each worked with a different theme.

"At FDCB, we always work with local materials. Khadi is my personal favourite, so I decided to use this material for my designs. The Swadeshi Movement and Mahatma Gandhi are closely associated with khadi. As this material has strong historical roots that concern us, I thought it would be a good choice for depicting our cultural heritage," added Emdad.

He blended tribal fabrics from Rangamati to his work to produce a very raw look. Malmal is a favourite fabric of Bangladesh, which was also present

By Faiza Khondokar
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Emdad Hoque
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha





#FASHION & BEAUTY

Shaibal Saha's Desert influenced fashion designs

This year's Apsara Fashion Week highlighted the work of Shaibal Saha, designer at Anjans. A sustainable line of clothing extracting inspiration from the waves created in the desert and nature featured in the collection.

Saha's line consisted of six clothes, all in neutral and cooler tones, and colours resembling the desert hues like beige, off-white, and golden.

Behind all of Saha's work lies the influence and poise of nature. Particularly for the clothes in this line, he mimics the waves the desert sands create and the gradients which arise in that environment.

The waves and styles of the outfit incorporated a subtle fluid movement which creates the illusion of rhythm in a mesmerising desert surroundings. The abstract features of the dresses complement its inspiration source, making the collection all the more fascinating.



The elegance of each outfit was highlighted with simplistic block prints, flower designs and patterns. All six outfits are made using natural fibres. Made from khadi cloth and natural jute, and other natural materials like sea-shells, all the patterns and designs are made by hand. Each clothing is unique in its own way and tells its own story.

All of Saha's original creations, taking about a month to conceptualise and create, have subtle overlaps of colours similar to the overlapping waves visible in a mirage. The headpieces add a dimension of sophistication and flare, bringing the entire outfit together and fulfilling the natural desert-inspired look from head to toe. Other than the outfits and headpieces, the shoes, jewellery and accessories are also made utilising jute.

Saha takes all his inspiration from nature and nature's happenings. Not only has he created a bold and elegant collection embodying the intricacies and movements of the desert mirage, but has also used local and sustainable materials. This line is not only unique and breath-taking in its story and inspiration, but also in its designs, materials, and creation.

By Puja Sarkar

Photo: Uturn Production

Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia

Wardrobe: Shaibal Saha

Make-up: Orko

Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Chandana Dewan's Krishnachura-inspired collection: Blending Bengali traditions and Western styles

The krishnachura flower has long been a source of inspiration for art and creativity among authors and artists of all kinds.

Chandana Dewan was inspired by the beauty of this flower, and strived to reflect its



elegance, fierceness and natural beauty through her clothing, accordingly naming her line 'Krishnachura.' With such significance of the krishnachura flower as a lively and mesmerising representation of Bangladesh's nature, Dewan extracted the natural beauty of the flower and incorporated its essence into her designs, upholding the beauties of Bangladesh in an international platform.

With a range of soft and pleasant colours in shades of red, orange,

green, yellow, and beige, the collection consists of six exclusive and unique dresses, and reflect the ambience of summer and spring, embodying the natural changes and environment during these seasons.

The Aspara Fashion Show, highlighted the work of not only European designers but also those of Asia. Among them, the treasurer of Fashion Design Council of Bangladesh, Chandana Dewan brought traditional and local material, designs and patterns to an international platform with a modern and western flare.

The clothes are made from Tangail saris, pure cotton and hand loomed, by using local materials and embracing the craftsmanship of local artisans.

Among all the clothes, all of which are unique in their own accord,

a dress made of dry flowers stands out.

The semi-formal dress not only is made from local materials

promoting Bengali craftsmanship,

but also has a modern and western look. The dress is the perfect combination of chic and tradition.

The accessories share the same grace and inspiration as the clothes, made from jute, thick fabric, sea-shells. As such, the necklaces, earrings, and bags complement and highlight the dresses by adding a traditional dimension bearing equal traces of Bengali heritage.

All the clothes and accessories in the line share an attribute of being made with local and traditional materials, presenting the natural beauty of Bangladesh, but with a western and modern twist, making it both a product of Bengali heritage and for an international audience.

The exclusive pieces are being showcased in Dewan's fashion house, Chondon, in Gulshan 2 (Plot-9, Road-103)

By Puja Sarkar

Photo: Uturn Production

Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia

Wardrobe: Chandana Dewan

Make-up: Orko

Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha





TENZING CHAKMA adds a touch of vibrancy at international fashion week

Aspara fashion week celebrates the complex interaction, dialogue, and the trading of ideas between cultures by organising international fashion shows which involve both European and Asian designers, in the southern region of Kazakhstan. Aspara Fashion Week is the brainchild of Aidarkhan Kaliyev, one of the world's authoritative fashion designers.

Tenzing Chakma, a fashion designer renowned for being one of the first Bangladeshi designers to bring branding to local textiles was a perfect fit for Aspara fashion week as his hallmark style complements Aspara's vision to celebrate the diffusion of culture. Tenzing's fashion philosophy always prioritised the revival of his own roots, through both traditional and fusion wear.

"This is the very first time I did a fashion show online. It was different but definitely a lot less stressful. Fashion shows require tremendous amounts of commuting, we have to carry tons of equipment back and forth, and that is only the tip of the iceberg of all the hassle. Being able to just send in a video was relatively stress-free," mentioned Tenzing.

When asked about his inspirations for his line, Colours of Life, Tenzing mentioned that he wanted to think out of the box.

"I was faced with an international audience. I wanted to base my line on western high end fashion, while still bringing a breath of fresh air to it," shared Tenzing.

One of the most distinct attributes of Tenzing's line is the skilful use of bright and vibrant colours. Bright colours have always been a preference for Tenzing over neutral or muted shades. Most looks incorporate rainbow bands or complementary jewel tones to accent black, in the form of motifs.

Although at first glance Tenzing's line looks heavily inspired by western fashion, he did imbue it with various Indo-Asian and local Bangladeshi influences.

"I always try to use bright colours. I used pinon and wrap overs in a slightly fancier way. The most common fabric I used was the backstrap loom with some muslin. Local elements and local fabrics did have its place in my line," noted Tenzing.

By Tasfia Ahmed
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Tenzing Chakma
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



FARAH ANJUM BARI In celebration of sustainable fashion

She is known for her masterfully crafted label, FAB — concentrating on prêt wear and covering multiple aspects of couture culture. This year, for Aspara Fashion Week, Bari has delved deep into the colour mint green, and taken up the theme of 'conscious every day.'

When asked, Bari said, "I have always derived inspiration from my surroundings, and this year has been no different. Being focused on sustainable fashion designing, I have tried to style my clothing line in such a manner that is both eco-friendly and hand-crafted."

Farah Anjum Bari's interest has centred around experimenting with various cuts and designs, and her collection for the fashion week mirrors her passion. The colour light mint green has been prominent on the clothes that she has styled, and her signature cuts such as fluid, asymmetric, drapes, folds polish her couture collection.

"I have remained conscious about styling my collection in such a way that it stays 'zero waste fashion,' moreover, locally produced handwoven fabric that does not harm the environment has been my prime choice. In short, I have adopted a minimalist attitude while designing my clothing line for Aspara Fashion week," remarked the designer.

To add traces of Bengal's glorious heritage and embellish the clothes, aesthetically beautiful Jamdani motifs have been inserted through the mediums of embroidery and printing. Bari's clothing line this year has justly brought the beauty of green fashion and the vibe of our Bengali roots onto the international platform of Aspara Fashion Week. "Whether that be poetry or music, my craft always reflects my liking. Though this is my first time in Aspara Fashion Week, I have endeavoured to add my individualistic touch to my design collection. And this is undoubtedly an international melting pot where many cultures find their way harmoniously," mused Bari.

Farah Anjum Bari has been a very popular name in our fashion industry for a long time — as over the last two decades, she has worked with a diverse client base ranging from royal dignitaries, numerous corporate organisations including Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the Miss World Pageant (2001) to Lux Channel I Superstar hosted by Unilever Bangladesh Ltd.

With the amalgamation of texture and heritage of Bengal's culture and green fashion, Bari has again displayed her ingenuity in the eighth season of Aspara Fashion Week 2021.

By Ayman Anika
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Farah Anjum Bari
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



#FASHION & BEAUTY

Lipi Khandker's Signature at Fashion Week

Ringed in tolls of power, dynamics and liberation, Lipi Khandker's designer label, Signature, left crowds overturned on their heels at the Aspara Fashion Week, 2021. Streamed live from Taraz, Kazakhstan, Lipi Khandker was one of the 11 Bangladeshi fashion designers featured at the international platform, an opportunity she grabbed by the horns and just ran with.

Khandker is a proud exalter of Bengal's heritage, preservation and sustainability ^¾ beliefs that stole the limelight at Aspara for even global fashion experts to laud and appreciate. Khandker has already championed heritage fabrics in her previous collections, but for Aspara, the designer takes it one step further with Shape of Freedom, a dramatic concept adapted sartorially with historic nods to our past.

Khandker achieves true mastery with Bengal's woven treasures as her sense of patriotism sings through her newest collection. Glorified like never before are Cumilla's khadi and Tangail taant, these fabrics acting as Bengal's distinct insignias, chanting hymns of old cultures dying to be revived.

Sticking to ivory hues and minimalist emblems, Khandker creates her signature soft looks that are dominated by asymmetry. And it is this mismatch of lines that elevates her designs.

You do not have to be like everyone else, especially if you are clad in Signature by LK. Her designs strike balance between an ever-changing world and a fixed position as elegance bumps into asymmetry and newness sets camp in classicity. Every line, you will find, takes you in a different direction and every destination excites rather than bores. Put all the discrepancies together and you will have discovered a freedom in expression that needs no justification.

Khandker delivers such feats with fashion, by stitching fabrics to create garments that are unmistakably Eastern with modern twists stealing your eye every now and then. Khadi t-shirts for sari blouses, admiral blues for screen prints and tie-dyes for mesmerising twirls ^¾ LK designs are youthful and fresh. Dhuti trousers or skirt pants flowing free under box-cut kameezes and sleeveless dresses to win against blazing suns, Khandker does not just stop there.

She goes on to keep things structured with tiers, pleats, flounces and ripples, a literal contradiction but a sartorial achievement accredited to only Khandker. Finally, with strategic placements and patterns of silver sequins, she ceases with mirrored illusions that serve glamour like legal notices: with blinding bluntness.

Moving onto styling, Khandker punctuates her designs with a white-smoke-coloured bangle here or a few layers of necklaces there, and, in some special, show-stopping cases, even gold circles of jewellery that start off as a chain at the neck but unexpectedly extend down your chest to bind your waist in a bracelet.

If you have come this far, you might as well finish off the look with a dangling potli to store your essentials, 'cause anything that connects us to our roots is an instant hit and a cannot-live-without pair of nude pumps, 'cause we still believe in pragmatism.

What you are left with is an original ensemble by Signature LK, envisioned by Lipi Khandker herself for Aspara Fashion Week. The runway closes, Bengal's history is restored.

By Ramisa Haque

Photo: Uturn Production

Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia

Wardrobe: Lipi Khandker

Make-up: Orko

Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



#FASHION & BEAUTY

Shahrukh Amin redefines 'Flower Power' at the runway

Breaking the rules has never looked so glamorous! Leave it to Shahrukh Amin, the Bangladeshi fashion designer with his home-grown luxury brand, Almira, and an enviable following of local and international admirers. Embracing florals for spring (ground-breaking, but for real though), Amin puts his best foot forward for the highly-esteemed Aspara Fashion Week, being streamed live from Taraz in Kazakhstan this year.

Amin raises the bar and re-defines "Flower Power" in his latest clothing line for the 2021's virtual Aspara runway. Working with heritage fabrics, Amin experiments with handloom materials and re-discovers silk and muslin in a new light. His designs are anything but ordinary. And safe? Definitely not!

Asymmetrical cuts, cowl sleeves and modern renditions of the medieval kaftan, Amin's designs do right by verdant romances. His fusion attires and ankle-length dresses connect East with West whilst tiptoeing around tulips, illustrating gardens of Eden and capturing botanic blooms.

What's interesting is Amin's techniques as he does so. His fabrics flow free and loose in base colours of laurel or tea greens. And clustered on the collar, or vining down the neck, and if neither of those, then dotted across the entire ensemble, you will find lovely roses, elegant lilies or pink orchids blooming as though they have captured the sun. Gold or black brocades complete his creations but there is more still.

For styling, Amin is very '80s. He took a note from the paparazzi era of the Lohans and the Hiltons and made sunglasses the indispensable accessory of his line. His bodega-bouquet look is refreshed with tiny, saffron sunglasses nesting comfortably on beautifully-carved faces to ooze good vibes only. Very retro, timelessly-vintage and the perfectly-nonchalant invitation to be photographed when stepping out of a hotel, finishing off a brunch or caught in the moment, French macaroon-in-hand, at a high-tea afternoon party or a friend's baby shower.

By Ramisa Haque

Photo: Uturn Production

Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia

Wardrobe: Shahrukh Amin

Make-up: Orko

Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



#FASHION & BEAUTY

Kuhu Plamondon dazzles with her collection, Summer Breeze

Kuhu Plamondon was a student of the Faculty of Fine Arts in Dhaka University with an acute interest in fashion. "Since fashion schools were not widely available back in the day, I was put into art school instead. And it helped me tremendously," she said.

According to the artist, her drawing always had a fashion edge to it, often noted by her teachers.

"My professor, Shahid Kabir, whom I admire greatly, often said that the models in my drawing looked like fashion models with statuette Bengali eyes," said Plamondon. Surely enough, as she immersed herself into the world of fashion, Kuhu succeeded in building a career by blending her art into fashion.

"I enjoyed everything about art. I still continue my live model drawing. But when I was introduced to drapes and the draping of a sari in particular, I was absolutely fascinated. Whenever I picture a Bengali girl, I always think of her draped beautifully in a typical white sari with red borders. This eventually inspired me and I began mixing the skill of art into drapes," stated the designer.

The Aspara Fashion Week 2021 exhibited the works of renowned designers of Europe and Central Asia. Here, Kuhu introduced her series, Summer Breeze. Kuhu's collection always comes with a message and she is known to tell stories through the clothes. So, what is the story behind Summer Breeze?

"You can neither see breeze, nor touch it. It is only to be felt," she explained. "I could have chosen summer 'colours' for instance, but the focus had to be on the flow."

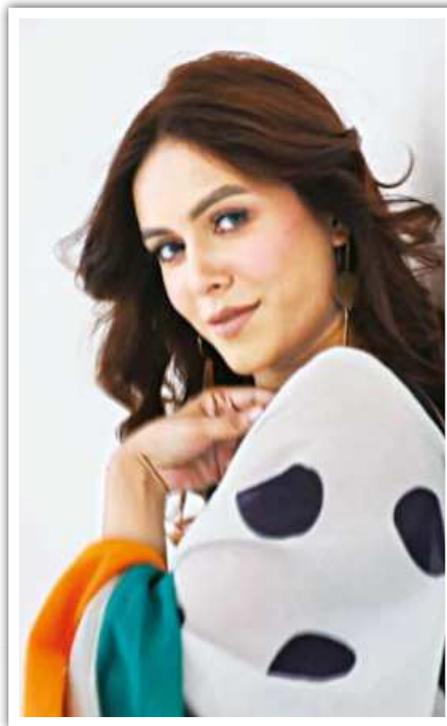
White dominated the series this time. With our all-time favourite polka dots and tie n' dye prints, the clothes perfectly brought forth the comfort and breeziness that we crave so badly in summer.

"When working with patterns, it is crucial to not go overboard. Your clothes are to enhance your beauty, not overshadow it," said Plamondon. "I love working with bright colours, but at the same time, I tend to break it up with white or sometimes black."

The fabric bought from textile firms is the only commercial element in Kuhu's work. She poetically refers to them as her empty canvas. Each of the dresses and saris are hand-dyed and printed in her studio, ensuring their individuality.

Designers like Kuhu Plamondon are artists who transform imagination into reality right before our eyes. Each comes with a surprise element of its own, and leaves us awaiting the next almost impatiently.

By Nusrath Jahan
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Kuhu Plamondon
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha



#CHECK IT OUT

Apex honoured for excellence in retail and digital marketing

Apex Footwear Limited is one of the fastest-growing companies in the country and currently has the largest footwear retail operations in Bangladesh with more than 250 retail outlets, 275 franchisees, and 150 distributors across 64 districts.

Apex Footwear Ltd. has recently been honoured with the "Best Retailer - Footwear" and "Best Loyalty Campaign" at the inaugural Bangladesh Retail Awards 2021, along with Excellence & Leadership in Digital Marketing for "Best Execution of Performance Campaign" at the Golden Star Award held in Bangalore, India.

Recognised as the Best Retailer in

Footwear, Apex strives to provide excellent retail shopping experience in Bangladesh, with a professional but friendly salesforce working tirelessly to provide customers with a memorable encounter. As part of the constant innovation to enrich the customer journey with value-added services, Apex introduced a range of premium and personalised facilities in stores for a wholesome retail experience.

Secondly, for the "Best Loyalty Campaign", Apex created the Summer Voucher Fest loyalty campaign for Apex Rewards Members, designed to offer members customised offers based on their previous

purchases and engagement behaviour. The campaign was topped with iPhone 12 giveaway for the top three members with maximum purchase value. The goal of the campaign was to increase revenue from active users, get the dormant Rewards members back to Apex stores, and increase overall engagement with the loyalty base.

Finally, for "Best Execution of Performance Campaigns" Apex created a digital transformation strategy amidst the pandemic to increase our customer base and increase digital awareness with more customer-centric marketing across all channels.

Star Lifestyle is looking for new writers!

Do you enjoy writing on current and trending topics? Be it food, fashion, health, travel, tech or any other diverse lifestyle topics, and you enjoy researching and writing, then come join us as a contributing writer.

To apply, send us your CV and two sample write-ups on topics pertaining to lifestyle of your choice. The articles must be unpublished and original, and of approximately 600 words each.

Email us your submissions at lifestyleds@yahoo.com and please mention "Application..." in the subject line. Deadline: 30th November, 2021.

HOROSCOPE



ARIES
(MAR. 21-APR. 20)

Keep your opinions to yourself. Get involved in creative groups. Stick to travel. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.



TAURUS
(APR. 21-MAY 21)

Be innovative. Loved ones won't understand your needs. Social functions can bring about new romance options. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



GEMINI
(MAY 22-JUN. 21)

Get some rest. Address the real issues before it's too late. Try not to fall ill this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



CANCER
(JUN. 22-JUL. 22)

Be honest about your intentions. Don't overexert yourself in physical activities. Overindulgence will cause conflicts. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LEO
(JUL. 23-AUG. 22)

True freedom will be your requirement for happiness. Love could develop at work events. Start curbing your bad habits. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEP. 23)

Someone will make your life difficult this week. Don't let anything interfere with work. Try to be accommodating. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



LIBRA
(SEP. 24-OCT. 23)

Enlist co-workers to wrap up work. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Secret affairs could land you in trouble. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



SCORPIO
(OCT. 24-NOV. 21)

Don't overreact. Focus on professional objectives. Consider starting your own small business on the side. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Correspondence may not clear up issues. Financial ventures will be successful. Your personal situation is fluctuating. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 20)

Make alterations to your living arrangements. Focus on building a strong financial future. Don't get upset over trivial matters. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



AQUARIUS
(JAN. 21-FEB. 19)

Spend time with your partner. Your efforts will be acknowledged. Fix a budget for yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



PISCES
(FEB. 20-MAR. 20)

Consider joint financial investments. Don't get too sad if your partner misbehaves. Opportunities for advancement are apparent. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

এখন
ফাস্ট ওয়াশ

ডিটারজেন্ট পাউডার

১ কেজির সাথে

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লব্ধী সোপ

ফ্রী!







Maheen Khan at the Aspara Fashion Week 2021

A sartorial curation of international designers, global influencers and fashion experts showed off their salt's worth at Aspara Fashion Week streamed virtually from the alluring and Eastern city of Taraz, in Kazakhstan.

Reviving the lost stories of the Great Silk Road that once bridged Asia and Europe, the star-studded fashion show is one of the largest in Asia and is yet another reminder that traditional ramp shows are being rewired to incorporate digital solutions. Here, the best of Eurasia has been championed and the diverse community that has formed as a result is a massive shout-out to culture, heritage and dialogue.

The story of the best in Eurasian fashion is incomplete without the footprints of Maheen Khan, a Bangladeshi fashion designer revered even abroad for her advocacy for slow fashion and empowerment of rural women by incentivising their unmatched skills in needle and thread work. This time, for Aspara Fashion Week, her label, Studio Mayasir, stitches into fabric the literary enchantment of Rabindranath Tagore's 1913 poem, *Paper Boats*.

Khan's cinematic portfolio directs powerful imagery of rural women setting sail to their daydreams and dainty paper boats down the waters by the riverbeds. What completes this tale is the sensory narration of Tagore's iconic poem done in Khan's own voice, so producing a brilliant juxtaposition of fashion and film.



"Day by day as the rural women float their paper boats one by one down the running stream," in Tagore's words, Khan envisions them clad in delicate prairie dresses, tea-lengthened and frilled in a ditzzy mess.

"In big black letters, as the women write their names on the paper boats and the name of the villages where they live," Khan creates floaty silhouettes overshadowed by the setting sun but modernised with textures, tiers and tassels hanging free and loose from collars tie-necks.

"As the women load their little boats with jasmies from their garden, and hope that these blooms of the dawn will be carried safely to land in the night," Khan visualises the scene with hollow, puff sleeves and the romantic yearning, almost a nostalgia, for the days gone by, perhaps, better than the times we are entrapped in today but certainly different in the air they existed in.

Cut to present reality, Tagore's intimate stories of pastoral Bengal may struggle to survive through the passage of time, but thanks to Khan, new life has been breathed into his words. Her designs of functional

and tactile fashion are the perfect glove-fit for the once starry-eyed women who have now been inevitably transformed by the developing world we recognise today.

In Khan's version, these women are efficient, powerful and command every room they walk into. Live Khan's sartorial dream with her latest ode to the boho-chic style. Studio Mayasir's midi dresses timelessly styled with strappy sandals or lace-up Dr Marten's suede boots and woven, wicker handbags are what you need to be a part of this saga.

Vintage jewellery, layers of faux-fur coats for the changing winds of fall-cum-winter and there you have it: the perfect chord between Tagore's masterpiece and Khan's rehash of the '90s fashion headline that once dictated the cover pages of fashion magazines.

By Ramisa Haque
Photo: Uturn Production
Model: Maria, Hira, Mili, Tania, Efa, Nazia
Wardrobe: Maheen Khan
Make-up: Orko
Co-ordination: Sonia Yeasmin Isha