

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

