



The Boishakh wishlist

MODEL: MASHIAT
WARDROBE: MAYASIR
FOOTWEAR: MAYASIR
JEWELLERY: MAYASIR

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SARIS

Today what has become a special occasion or formal wear for many was once worn everyday by the women of this sub-continent. Dating back to almost 2800 BC, saris have evolved today taking up a special position in every woman's wardrobe. And what better occasion than Boishakh to adorn yourself with this beautiful creation? The one go-to stop for local saris is Bailey Road; lined with stores of all sizes, no one will come back empty handed. Apart from these there are stores like Aarong, Aranya, Deshal and Rong that bring out some of their best designer collections keeping Boishakh in mind.

But what are things if you do not live it? What ever happened to staying up all night at your village house listening to your grandmother tell stories while eating pithas? Head out this Boishakh and partake in these things that have made us who we are.

HEAD TO A VILLAGE MARKET

The market place in most villages is slow in the early mornings and gathers pace around the mid-afternoon, not so much because the people are sleeping in but because they have to get the days produce and work on their fields in the mornings. The village market is the congregation place of the villagers, where news of the day is exchanged amidst cups of tea and piyajus. Local produce is sold such as potatoes and sugarcane in Joypurhaat, pineapples, shatkora and lemons in Sylhet, dried fish (shutki) in Chittagong, hoards of shrimp in Khulna and mangoes in Rajshahi. The village market is an enchanting place - each person you meet carries a story worth listening to. The haats are integral to village life and have been the centre of not just commerce - this is where the community meets. Make your way to a village market this Boishakh and find yourself among the simplest of settings yet promising the true essence of the new year.

ODE TO THE RIVER

This 400 year old illustrious city flourished

and grew around rivers. Men trading their ware, women collecting water for daily chores, children playing on the muddy river banks to people travelling from one place to the other, the waterways showcase the true spirit of Bengal like no other. So why not pay tribute to the great rivers of Bangladesh this Boishakh. One can drive from the city to the rivers and spend the day by the banks, see life infringed on the banks of the mighty Meghna, find a story unfolding as you walk alongside the great Padma. You can even take boat rides on these rivers by hiring local boats or there are services like the Contic via which you can book an entire day of boating on the river.

CHARAK PUJA

Celebrated on the last day of Choitro, Charak Puja is an age old tradition seen mostly in the southern regions of Bangladesh. Celebrated so that the sorrow and suffering of the year will be washed away on the eve of the new year, the puja is a display of the power of belief. Part of this is the tradition of a priest being hung from a hook and spun around a frame. Head to Manikganj or Dhamrai and you might just catch a glimpse

of this. Be warned, Charak Puja is not for the faint at heart.

A CLOSE SHAVE

Head out of the city, walk around the suburbs and villages - you will surely see the sight of a road side barber giving people haircuts and shaves. If you dare, experience this, give your look a new do on the road. A little precaution though - it would be wise to get the barber to change the blade of the razor first.

Pohela Boishakh brings out the Bengali in us, and what better way to live in the moment than to indulge the way we have for generations. The vestiges of these traditions are all that remain now and it is important we preserve them by making them part of our lives - otherwise we might lose the very essence of our identity.

By Abida Rahman Chowdhury and Moyukh Mahtab

BOISHAKH CHECK IT OUT

Cats Eye Boishakhi offer

BOISHAKH is all about celebration. At Cats Eye this Boishakh the designs are based on the traditional red-white and soft, summer colours. Despite using the usual linen, net, georgette or cotton, the cuts and the patterns hold much to look forward to. And then there are the fusion attires that merge the best of the East and the West. Along with the Boishakhi outfits, there is an exclusive line of colourful western attire at the Basundhara City, Gulshan and Jamuna Future Park outlets. For details log onto www.facebook.com/CatsEyeLtd.



Karukar brings special jewellery for Pohela Boishakh

KARUKAR has a range of beautiful and attractive jewellery for the upcoming Pohela Boishakh. Their Boishakhi collection features different kinds of traditional necklace sets, earrings, bangles, payals, and finger rings. They also have clutches and decoration pieces.

Most of the products are handmade, while others are imported from India and China. Address: 109- 211, Bailey Fiesta, 12 New Bailey Road. For wholesale purchases 208, 214-216, New Super Market (South) Block-A (Ground Floor), Dhaka. #01715151225. For more information log onto www.karukar.com.

