



Surviving Load-shedding Season

SAMIN SABAH ISLAM

Ah, load shedding season. Either electricity is having its "time of the month" or has fallen victim to bipolar disorder. Either way, we are the victims and must thrive to survive.

BE SNEAKY WITH COMPASSION

While you're sitting in front of the dying out candle trying to figure out the mechanism of the very perplexing *haat pakha*, keep an ear open for errands needed to be run. Your mother needs Greek yoghurt from the grocery store? Be the *adorsho shontaan* and volunteer. Don't hesitate to make a couple detours to spend more time where there are lights and cool air and a phone charger. Make sure to thank the Almighty and all the ignorant drivers for the wonderfully packed traffic. While you're in the store, casually chill by the capsicums.

SHAVE

Basic biology must have taught you that mammals have hair on their bodies to trap a layer of air for insulation. Evidently, load shedding season isn't the best time to be mammal, because it's already 34 degrees outside and then your generator betrays. Since it's far too late to change your place in the animal kingdom, a useful

solution is to shave off that additional layer of lagging. And if you're a "man" and too afraid of losing your man card along with that body hair ask yourself which is worse, *chila murgi* or sweaty stinky skunk?

MAKE SMART FRIENDSHIP CHOICES

If you're an unsocial person, the time when July rolls in is a good one to really widen out your friend circle - geographically speaking. So when the electricity is shut off for your home in one region you can go chill at your buddy's on the other region. There's no point in having all your friends live in Uttara. Cut off some of those redundant friendships and reach out to the fellow Dhanmondi dwellers. Be open to your friend knocking at your door at 2 PM asking for directions to the air conditioner. Humanity is a two-way street.

SURVIVAL KIT

- Patience
- Potatoes and apples (apparently vegetables can charge your phone - good time checking out this theory)
- An appetite for cold food (the microwave won't function and your mother ain't going near the stove in this state so either this or learn to fast)
- Light, white, baggy, cotton clothes, preferably old ones with holes in it for added ventilation (load

shedding season is a particularly bad time to go Goth, delay that thought for a couple more months)

- Patience
- Gas filled in your car (you may need a place to crash at night when the air conditioner won't work)
- Your Nanu's ancient hand fan
- Patience

LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE (EVEN THOUGH THE ELECTRICITY IS OUT AND IT'S PRETTY DARK)

If you look at it from the right angle, load shedding season ain't that bad. Electricity fails allow you to get in touch with your romantic side and embrace the mushy ambience of candle lit dinners. It's rather celebratory for students, calling to cancel on their home tutors because the electricity hasn't made an appearance yet, and furthermore the perfect excuse to avoid homework. When the lights, ACs, Wi-Fi, phones and all other distractions die out, face-to-face traditional bonds strengthen.

Unless you're home all alone, then it's just bad.

Samin Sabah Islam believes there are very few problems in life, if any, that a good nap can't fix. If she isn't asleep, your queries may be answered at sabahsamin11@gmail.com

How I Put on My Face

TASNIM ODRIKA

Time and time again we have all encountered this question: What's the secret to looking beautiful? Well, the answer to this question has not been revealed to me yet, but, today I will show you how I achieve my hot potato look every day.

I begin by gently cleansing my face of all the build up negativity from the day before and exfoliating to let in the positivity. Then I put on a primer to soften my harsh outlook on life. The next step is foundation. Now, this is very crucial. While you're blending you have to make sure you're covering all aspects of your life evenly. How are you doing on an intellectual, emotional, physical, and spiritual level? Are you constantly trying to pick your brain and be the best version of yourself? Are you addressing all your feelings in a healthy way instead of repressing them? Are you taking care of your body and drinking lots of water?

After my face is prepped I move on to the eyes. I like to line my eyes properly so that I can see through all the fakes. Then I like to do a little cat eye so that a. everyone

knows how much I adore cats, b. the cats accept me as their own. Now, lining the eyes is not enough. So I use mascara to REALLY open up my eyes and help me see the world better. I finish it by dabbing a little glitter on the outer corner of my eyes because nothing screams fabulous like glitter.

At this point, you need to brighten up your life with some colour. Enter blush; then, a touch of highlighter to deflect the daily negative comments. Lastly, it is important to cover your lips with some kind words (if you don't want a dead person's tapes delivered to your doorsteps) because very often people leave this out. You should also remember to not overdo it. A lot of times people are kind for all the wrong reasons.

The look is completed with a bit of hair spray to boost self esteem and bring liveliness.

In short, ask yourself this: does what you do on the outside reflect how you feel on the inside? Think about it.

Tasnim Odrika is having an existential crisis at the moment and doesn't really know who she is anymore. Send her compliments at odrika_02@yahoo.com

