

Things to know before attending your first cricket match

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Now that BPL is back, many of you will be setting foot inside a cricket stadium for the first time. If you're a part of this lucky bunch, read on for the do's and don'ts of a cricket stadium, young padawan.

YOUR BELONGINGS ARE NOT OKAY

No, I'm not warning you about bag-snatchers in the crowd (although they exist too). What I'm talking about is the intensive security checks. While not as bad as those during international matches, they're still thorough- they will take anything they can get their hands on. Most of the time you can't carry large, bulky bags; women's handbags are okay, however. If they're in the mood, they seize mini-mirrors/lipstick from said bags. There are no fixed rules for this: they could take anything. I learned this the hard way when I lost my favourite pair of headphones at a security check. The same could happen to you if you bring your DSLR for some *a e s t h e t i c* pictures.

The good news is mobile phones are a-ok so your Snap Stories will be entertaining for once. You can also bring



PHOTO: STAR

any banners/posters provided you've painted them beforehand- this is great for all the single ladies who want to let the world know exactly how they feel about Taskin's marriage.

THE WEATHER IS FICKLE

From the comfort of your home, you may not realise the strange ways the temperature at a stadium varies in pre-winter. During the day matches when the

sun is beating down you'll regret wearing that leather jacket. While looking cool, you'll be boiling inside- especially when you start cheering your lungs out for every wicket and six. However, this doesn't mean you can leave it at home. Because by the time the sun starts to sink and the first game is almost over, the fog sets in. How did you think all that dew was getting on the field, genius? The

onset of fog is accompanied by chilly winds so you're sure to get a runny nose and achy throat if you don't pack some warm clothing.

SO. MANY. PEOPLE.

Even if the BPL isn't as big as a *Momtaz* concert, plenty of people show up at the stadiums. If you don't want to miss any of the cricket, I'd recommend setting out early to avoid the crowds. You do not want to be stuck in the gigantic queues outside, wondering what on earth is making the crowd inside cheer so loudly.

As exciting as being part of a crowd is, there are always some garbage humans ready to ruin everyone's experience. The best way to avoid these people is to stick with a group when in the stadium. No one I know has ever faced harassment in stadiums, thankfully, but it does happen. If you ever find yourself in a situation like that, remember that there are always police officers patrolling the galleries, so do not hesitate to call for help if you are in danger.

Armed with this knowledge, I hope you have a great day at the stadium. And if you had some extra tickets, I sure wouldn't mind holding onto them for you. Just saying.

Pink City versus Gausia

The Ultimate Shopper's Guide

TAHSIN ABEDI

Gausia is probably one of the oldest markets of Dhaka city, with internal lanes so much like a maze that one could potentially get lost in there, unless, of course, he is a regular and dedicated customer. Starting from stitched and unstitched salwar kameez, sarees and burqas to makeup and jewelry, Gausia has an immense collection of items that a person can select from. Not only does it have a wide variety of artefacts available, the products are also reasonably priced, allowing the most average Bangladeshi to shop there without feeling like their pockets are being ripped off. However, it is a bargaining market, and the shopkeepers can ask up to three times the original price. Hence, only a true haggler can come out totally victorious. Even though the market is not air-conditioned, the individual shops usually have fans inside to aid ventilation. Still, if you are feeling a bit hot in the balmy weather of Dhaka, there's always the shops selling the mouth-watering faluda to cool you down, and the spicy fuchka and chotpoti to satiate your hunger after a long day of

shopping. Even so, one needs to be quite careful in markets like Gausia where pickpocketing is a common practice, and you wouldn't even realise when you've been pickpocketed amidst the crowd of crazy shoppers all eager to steal the best deals.

On the other hand, Pink City, although not as old as Gausia, has always been a favourite. As soon as you step in, you are greeted with the cool air of the central AC, and with running escalators, you don't even have to think of climbing stairs! Pink City is not pink, unlike what the name suggests. However, it is still the perfect place for those wishing to buy a fancy outfit for a special event, being full of shops selling imported clothes with eye-catching beadwork and embroidery. Be sure to bring your sunglasses inside as you are most definitely going to be dazzled by all the stone-set dresses and over the top glitter and sequins. Unfortunately, it is a little too expensive for the more average crowd, and since most shops offer fixed prices only, there is no scope for bargaining. Hence, for those wishing to buy a cheap present for an acquaintance, Pink City is not the place



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

for you. With that said, unlike Gausia, Pink City has a five-star hotel on its top floor called Baton Rouge. So, after shopping, if are feeling particularly bourgeoisie and are craving some good

food, head right upstairs!

Now that you know all there is to know about these shopping centers, get your shopping horses ready and set forth to your desired destination!