

A wristful of rainbow



*No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.*
-- Leisure, by WH Davies

In our always-in-a-rush lives, truly just running from place to place, and errand to errand, barely taking a breather every weekend, 'We have no time to stand and stare.' My days are no different, and yet, there are sights and sounds which have the capacity to stop one in their tracks. For me, a tray full of vibrant glass bangles glinting under the bright sun as the street hawker lady displays her wares, does it. Nostalgia, longing, and renewed realisations— that is the emotional train that follows a sighting of that.

One of my most cherished memories from childhood festivals, especially Eids, is that Ma would bring a large shoebox-sized pack full of vibrant glass bangles for each of us two sisters, a couple of dozen to match all three of our Eid outfits.

The first time that I remember going to the Dhaka University TSC for Pahela Baishakh, as a prancing 10-year-old, Baba got me a dozen bunches of those traditional opaque glass bangles, in all the colours that the seller lady had in her repertoire. In a moment of impulsive generosity, I gave up part of those that I was wearing --yellows, blues, greens and reds-- to a cousin the next day, for Pahela Baishakh. Ever since, every time I see a bangles vendor, I

subconsciously look for the same, to be able to wear them again, perhaps to gain back the innocence taken by time.

While indulging in such joy, never did I realise these simple moments would become a source of such nostalgia and longing, and a thing of the past long lost, as blessed childhoods are to go by too quickly.

For the habit of stopping by every so often to buy a dozen or few glass bangles, there is a large stock that I still sometimes gaze at, in those rare moments when there is time to stop and stare, and imagine. But the care free times to wear an armful of the rainbow coloured glass bangles and revelling in the sonorous clinking of the same, are long gone.

Yet, bangles still make for great tokens of holiday merriment and love. A couple of days ago, I bought some jasmine strings from this tiny flower seller, an adorable boy of perhaps 7 or 8, barely knee-high. He asked me to buy him a set of bangles from a vendor sitting right next to him, so I asked him to pick one. After a few moments of indecision, he picked a bunch of shiny and bright pink ones, barely half a finger across in diameter. He said it was for his little sister. It might be, for a long time to come, my most satisfying purchase.

By Sania Aiman

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STYLE COUNCIL

A belle's love for bangles

What is there to not like about a wristful of gently clinking glass bangles? Nothing!

And that statement is true for a majority of the female population, and that is why the sales of these can be seen increasing right before any big joyous festival, of which, Pahela Baishakh happens to be one.

A stroll through any area with a few shops will garner multiple street vendors selling gleaming glass bangles, and the shops inside those fancy plazas will also carry some, if only for the season!

Glass bangles are a perfect girly way to

bring a bit of panache and festive charm to even the simplest of outfits, and festive ones gain that much charm, when paired just right.

WITH THE SARI

As Bengalis, most of us will often end up choosing a sari for Baishakh, probably with elements of red and white, as is the tradition now, and what better way to cheer up the ensemble than glass bangles? Rather than going the traditional route of wearing red and white bangles with a red and white sari, try arms full of a bright sunny yellow or

the verdant glossy green to add that perfect pop of colour. This looks especially good with blouse sleeves that are not full length.

KURTIS AND FATUAS

For young girls and the ones young at heart, kurtis and fatuas will always be first picks for Baishakh for the comfort they offer on the day that typically happens to be really hot. Glass bangles are great accessories to these as well, but in smaller numbers, as a lot on both hands may overshadow the streamlined look of the breezy ensembles.

BREAK THE MONOTONE

Monochrome looks, like all white, red, black or any colour really, can be very elegant, and easy to pull off. But sometimes, these can also become bland. The easiest way to jazz the look, be it a sari, kurta or a shalwar-suite, is to wear a large number of shimmering glass bangles, either in just one boldly contrasting colour, or in bunches of different bright colours. It breaks up the monotony of the single coloured outfit without taking away from its intended grace.

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