

The BRIDE'S sidekick



And just like that, another festive season arrives with a drumroll. It's that time of the year once again, when everyone's writing tables are laden heavy with beautiful invites to countless weddings, receptions, mehendi, sangeet, bridal showers, hen nights, and so much more!

'Tis a glorious time, when the fabulously well-heeled fashionistas of Dhaka city turn out in their festive best, and sprinkle their heady stardust wherever they go. It can get quite hectic during wedding season in Dhaka though. Parties are fun, no doubt, but when your best friend, cousin, childhood friend, and neighbour are all getting married in the same week, (some on the very same day) and all of the brides just cannot do without you by their side, it can get a bit overwhelming. Even for the ever-so-seasoned Dhaka wedding-goer, who are marvellously adept at outfit-changing, event-hopping and sweet-talking with nosy aunties.

As every serial wedding-goer can attest, planning ahead is key. The most pressing question being what to wear to said parties; a girl must get her priorities straight before all else. Making a list comes in quite handy. That way, it's easy to keep track of the number of outfits one needs, and when. That brings us to the next big matter — what's 'in' this season?

We are in a very exciting place right now, fashion-wise. Bridesmaids are spoilt for choice when it comes to choosing outfits, as so many varied options are available. So, let's start with the basics.

Holud, mehendi, sangeet, and weddings are events where one's work is cut out. Saris are a perennial favourite; this year, the anchal

and paar are getting fun makeovers. Ruffles on the paar, oversized frills, and contrast anchal are all the rage and very trendy.

For kameez lovers, long floor-length anarkalis, with sparkling embroidery and zardozi, are easy pickings. Light lehengas are an option too. Go for a neon-pastel contrast; it's extremely trendy, and looks fabulous. Romantic materials such as georgette, tulle, and organza make for beautiful lehengas.

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Get creative with the dupatta and how you drape it.

Bridal showers and receptions are events when one can really get creative. Fusion is very hot on the sartorial landscape right now. Traditional shapes are being reimagined by designers, who are taking things to the next level. Western silhouettes

are being seamlessly incorporated with age-old shapes, making things look modern and interesting. Wear a sari with 'dhoti pants', cinch with a chic belt and top it off with a jacket. Pair a peplum top with a ghagra, or a one-shouldered gown with a draped dupatta.

Wear a chic, sequined sari and wrap it with a classic belt, leaving the anchal trailing. How about pairing a crisp white shirt with a bright pink lehenga skirt if you truly want to take things up a notch? It will set you apart from the crowd, and will certainly turn heads!

Colours like vermillion, teal, aubergine, and mustard are trending right now. In terms of accessories, choose statement pieces. A kundan necklace, a pair of heavy chaandbaalis, an ornate tikli, or a jhapta is all you need. Retain your youthful charm by choosing one of these, and let your natural beauty shine through, instead of trowelling yourself with heavy jewellery.

Juttis are very hot at the moment, and look perfect with traditional outfits. Makeup must be subtle, fresh, and dewy. Lastly, get your hair done, spritz on some perfume, put your best foot forward, and tackle the marvellous wedding season head-on. And, don't forget to have fun!

By Sabrina N Bhuiyan



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Footwear: Monroe
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