

Frugal fashion: *Styling on a budget*

BUSHRA ZAMAN

Have you ever scrolled through Pinterest outfit inspirations or seen notable street-wear fashion and wondered if you could ever look as classy? Students and others attempting to pay their own bills, I've got your back. Here's how to look stylish with affordable regular wear.

Affordable T-shirts purchased from Facebook pages sometimes cost approximately BDT 250-400. The best time to purchase these are during clearance sales. Best be lightning fast at booking these products because clearance products are usually in limited quantities, which is why sale timings may be posted beforehand. It's a sign – get all duties done and over with because these purchases could involve the survival of the fittest.

Physical stores (which are better options in terms of price) such as the famous location opposite Dhaka College may present T-shirts at prices as low as BDT 150 each. T-shirts may be more affordable options than *fatuas*, hence the focus on them. There are great options in Uttara too such as Nigar Plaza, near Rajlaxmi Complex and vendors in Sector 7 Rabindra Sarani. An open market on vans in front of Rajlaxmi is another great find particularly on Wednesdays when all else is closed in Uttara. Pair your look with a decent pair of pants within approximately BDT 500-700 from



Two excited customers. Too excited customers. Styling on a budget.

PHOTO:
ORCHID CHAKMA

one of the aforementioned locations for T-shirts, shoes within approximately BDT 1000 from Elephant Road or New Market, and boom, you have a basic outfit.

But what exactly should you be looking for? Rather than opting for tasteful and

trendy pieces, look for classic items that never go out of style and are of colours that can be reused with multiple other pieces of clothing in your wardrobe, like black formal pants, flannel shirts, solid-coloured T-shirts or ones with a small logo in the

corner. Details such as collars and a border around the sleeves or neckline may easily make you look well put together.

As for which shades of a particular colour to choose, pick ones that you are comfortable in and that highlight a particular feature of yours to make you look even better, for example, one that enhances your hair colour, eye colour, or skin tone. When purchasing shoes, wear the outfit you have in mind and try the shoes on with them to see how it all looks together. Never opt for pieces that make you uncomfortable since it brings down a key feature that can help you look good: self-confidence.

If you have some extra cash, invest in accessories. I personally like affordable unisex small beaded accessories, but small jewellery pieces may be found online at prices approximately less than BDT 400. A tip to make metallic jewellery be more colour-fast is to coat them with clear nail polish from time to time. It is also important to be well-groomed. Proper nail maintenance, regular haircuts and shaves can absolutely be DIY-ed at home with practice. Altogether, you'd spend roughly under BDT 2000 depending on bargaining skills and the number of items. Happy shopping!

Bushra Zaman likes books, art, and only being contacted by email. Find her at bushra-zaman31@yahoo.com

DO OR DYE

The "colour your hair" adventure

NISHAT TASNEEM SHAHARA

If your screenshot folder consists of strangers with blue, red and pink hair, and your search engine history is just Brad Mondo react videos, this article is the sign you have been waiting for. Here's your beginner's guide to the crazy hair of your dreams.

THE RESEARCH

This is not applicable for you if you are hoping to get something drastic done, like a platinum white. It would be tough to get and maintain this look for people with naturally dark hair. To understand this, start with some boring research. What is your hair type? Do you need to bleach it to get a neon orange, or would you settle for burgundy highlights? Because unfortunately for most of you reading this, your naturally dark hair will need to be either lifted or stripped of its colour for anything bright to be visible on it.

And here's the catch: bleaching your hair can be scary and damaging. To get the best results (and to avoid frying your hair), book an appointment at a well-reputed hair salon and be prepared to make a dent in your wallet. But hey, if you are reading this article, you must have already ordered that purple hair dye. It's pointless to try to stop you now, so here are some tips instead.

THE PREPPING

Moisturising your hair is essential before, throughout, and after the process. In fact, avoid shampooing your hair before bleaching it. If you must, use a moisturising conditioner or a hair mask. You need your hair to be in its best condition before attacking it with bleach. Using anything other than a box dye will also immensely improve

the quality of your new hair (Arctic Fox and Manic Panic products are recommended). And if possible, don't do this alone. Call a responsible friend. You will need the help.

THE PROCESS

Accept that this is going to be a mess. Wear your gloves and slather some Vaseline on your hairline and ears. Read the detailed instructions that come with your products, and strictly follow them. Set timers. Start by separating your hair into as many sections as you think is necessary and apply the bleaching solution from the end sections. Work your way up to your roots, never the other way around. Use warm water to clean the lightening or bleaching products off, and don't overdo the washing. Take a break before applying your hair dye next. Once it is all done, condition your hair and leave it alone for the next couple of days.

THE AFTERCARE

To get your new hair to last for more than five days, invest in some sulphate free, hair colour friendly shampoos, dry shampoos and colour protecting conditioners. Do not shampoo your hair for at least the next two days of colouring it, and be prepared for some really cold showers from now on. Hot water fades hair colours faster. Minimise the number of times you wash your hair by using dry shampoo.

There you have it. A very basic guide to help you not damage your hair beyond repair. Disappoint your parents and have fun!

Shahara is the resident blue haired tsundere of her friend group. Write to her at nish.nts@gmail.com

