

DAPPER ON THE CHEAP: The ultimate budget shopping guide for men

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Whether you don the simple white no-frills style, or modern colours and shapes, panjabis can be a hassle-free and comfy way of looking fly. Another benefit panjabis have is that they make the generously sized gentlemen look much more toned down.

With the way panjabis are, picking up readymade ones is a safe bet regardless of your size. As for where to get good deals, Aarong is a decent choice, but it won't be cheap. But if you really want a bargain, check out Lili Market (beside Mouchak market), and shops leading up to New Market. If you want to go the tailor-made route, you can grab your fabrics from Islampur or Chadni Chawk and have them tailored there, although, do know that the tailoring route can be expensive.

Price: If you are looking at shops in Lili Plaza or new Market, you can get them from anywhere between Tk 450 – Tk 1500. If you are looking at Aarong, you can expect prices to start from TK 2000 and only go up from there.

Trousers

While no words are needed to emphasize its importance, it is however the easiest to get on the cheap without needing to compromise on anything. The best place for jeans and gabardine, by far, is Doja market. Make sure to ask for "plain design" jeans of whatever fit suits your fancy, as these places have a lot of faded/worn style of jeans which they will try to unload on you, so unless you are only about that torn/worn/faded life, avoid them at all cost.

Tip: You will also find three quarter pants of various materials at Doja, but a word of warning; please leave these kinds of pants for vacation wear ONLY. Wearing these anywhere else is just a no-no, especially if you are past 19.

Price: You can score good gabardine pants from anywhere between Tk 500 – Tk 700 depending upon the fabric, fit, colour and so on. Jeans, on the other hand,



are anywhere between Tk 650 – Tk 800, depending upon quality and fit.

Footwear

Footwear is probably the one place where I would say not to be a penny-pincher and splurge as much as necessary, as these are absolute essentials and a wrong purchase means being stuck on perpetual discomfort, and even injury.

However, if you are still trying to shop on the cheap, refer to the dapper on the cheap mantra; be on lookouts for discounts, as most popular shoe stores offer massive discounts nearly every month. If that is not enough, there are tonnes of shoe stores in Elephant Road Bata Signal where you can end up with nice shoes without breaking the bank. My advice; try those shoes on and make sure it fits well, and does not hurt or chafe the foot.

FORMAL WEAR

"What would you do if you had to choose between your suits and a pot of gold? Suits."

— Barney Stinson (How I Met Your Mother)

Nothing screams formal and sophistication more than a suit. And in all honesty, nothing suits a man better (pun intended). That's the whole reason why Barney Stinson had a whole song about them. Be it a three-piece (with a waistcoat), or a two-piece (traditional jacket only), no other piece of clothing in a man's arsenal has the cool factor quite like suits.

Before you buy your fabrics, you need

to choose which style you wish to don; three- or two-piece. The traditional, and possibly the safest choice, depending on your physique, would be the two-piece. This is the jacket and trouser combo that everyone knows and loves. But if you are all about pushing the boundary, nothing will look as cool as a three-piece. This combo adds a waistcoat under the jacket, letting you experiment to your heart's content with print, colour, materials, etc.

The golden rule for suits is that it should never ever be off the rack. It has to be bespoke, meaning you have to source the fabric, get it to the tailor, get measured and have it made to your specifications only. Let's start with that first bit. You can get fabrics from any of your preferred locations, or even from abroad if you really wanted to. If you are unsure, you can also choose the fabric



from locations listed in this article, such as Islampur or Top Ten etc.

Once that's done, you can start to think about tailors. My personal opinion is to skip legacy tailor brands, as their designs really aren't up to modern cut and fit standards. Popular tailor choices like Ferdous, Fit Elegance, Dapper Bespoke are also not exactly budget friendly, even if their work is very modern. If you want modern designs and a good deal, head on down to tailor shops around Elephant Road Bata signal, such as Reid & Taylor.

Price: Fabrics are tough to list out, because depending upon where you buy and what you buy, it can be as cheap as Tk 2000 and only go up from there. For tailoring, assuming you end up in Reid & Taylor or a similar tailoring store in the Bata Signal area, a traditional suit should not cost more than Tk 6000 to tailor. If you go for the three-piece option, you are looking at Tk 7000+. Also, you can buy readymade waistcoats separately from plenty of other stores to mix and match with any other suit, and those cost anywhere between Tk 2000 – Tk 3000.

WINTER

With Bangladesh's weather on the cusp of switching to winter, now is the perfect time to discuss winter attire. The three essentials in any man's winter wardrobe should be a shawl, sweaters, a coatee and a form-fitting jacket, preferably leather.

Shawls come into their own when you are out or attending a function that dictates wearing a Panjabi. Another way to elevate Panjabis to formal wear, or just a unique look altogether, is to pair them with a coatee. Sweaters can be paired with shirts for a clean elegant look, or with t-shirts/polos for a carefree informal look. Finally, jackets bring simplicity and cool factor to any outfit.

While there are plenty of great winter wear to be found in Doja, and even in Bashundhara City, I would personally avoid buying anything now, and simply make do with whatever you have, provided they are sufficient. The trick to the winter budget shopper is to buy for the next winter i.e., buy at the end of this winter, to wear for the coming winter. The reason for this is simple; massive discounts, meaning you can shop from wherever and not have to overpay on anything.

The key thing to remember when shopping on the cheap to keep an eye on quality, because 'the dapper on the cheap guide' does not equate shoddy quality. Hopefully, this guide helps in elevating your wardrobe game without putting you in the poorhouse.

By Intisab Shahriyar

Photo: Sazzad Ibne Sayed

Model: Emon

Makeup: Suman

Styling: Sonia Yeasmin Isha