

#FASHION & BEAUTY

Thrifting is nothing but the buying and selling of used, fashionable clothing that the original owner has had enough of. The items are usually in good condition and can be given fresh life by others. The practice is great for exchanging fashion ideas as most of the thrift stores offer an eclectic, unique selection of clothes that speak of someone's personalised sense of fashion.

## The three Rs of Fashion: REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE

A number of thrifting initiatives have cropped up around Dhaka recently, gently nudging fashion aficionados in the "sustainable" direction. Leading baby steps into a more eco-friendly, accountable culture of shopping, the RC Pathfinders a 'Pre-loved to Re Love Fair' — a thrift sale — on Saturday, 4 November, in Gulshan. At the sale, all the items on display were gently used by a previous owner but had enough life and charm left in them to be re-adopted by someone else.

With mouth-watering snacks and a musical soirée to complete the day, the event promised to be sustainable, responsible, and fun! Proceeds coming from the items will be utilised for Project Shabolombi, a noble initiative to prevent early marriage and encourage higher education for females.

Currently, the world is in the grips of mounting inflation and a looming recession. But, who would believe it, looking at the way people spend on clothing and accessories? Catering to the appetite of the increasingly materialistic population of the world

has been a tall order for the manufacturers of fashion paraphernalia, but they have quickly monetised the creeping demands for cheap clothing by resorting to fast fashion.

The result is a choking, sputtering Mother Earth, full of used and thrown clothing and other fashion accessories. Stuff that

will either never decompose or take its sweet time doing so. Concerned by the situation, advocates of the environment, especially in the aftermath of the pandemic, came up with the renewed idea of thrifting.

Interestingly enough, thrift stores never really run out of variety, because there is just so much to go around. Shopping at these stores is a win-win, giving you the high of retail therapy, without the guilt of succumbing to the allure of cheap, fast fashion.

One can score some quality pieces of clothing much cheaper



than the market price. Chances are, these pieces are classics or vintage, greatly minimising the chance that you would end up looking like someone else, as is usually the case with fast fashion.

Imagine the wholesome feeling when you know that the fashion treat you just walked out of the thrift store with did not require the use of massive amounts of energy, or thousands of gallons of water to make? Or, that your money did not go to some gigantic organisation that would habitually continue its abuse on the environment, but to support a local cause?

For an environment that is bursting at the seams with "stuff", thrift stores and events like 'Pre-loved to Re Love Fair' can serve as a much-needed respite.

By Munira Fidai  
Photo: LS Archive/ Sazzad Ibne Sayed

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