

Dhaka Day by Day

All Roads Don't Lead to Motijheel

by Fayza Haq

Roads in Dhaka are constantly being built and renovated. In Saatmasjid Road in Dhanmandi, for instance, the trees have been chopped and the roads tarred for the 12 years I have been in Dhaka.

If you should take a "rickshaw" or "baby-taxi" to your office in Motijheel, you are tossed and turned. My friends and I have often been hit at the back. We have lost our purses and important documents, because of the pell-mell rush, during the peak hour.

There was a time when an ex-boss of mine told me "The coast is clear, so come to office." The servants at home had warned me that the situation in the city that winter was grave. My effort in going to the office remained an exercise in futility.

I have sometimes had to change my rickshaw three times, without exaggeration, just to get to work. Either the "rickshawwalla" has had no conception of the roads of Dhaka, or he tells me that "dacoits" are following me, or



They say that taking a ride in a bus from Dhanmandi to Motijheel, near the "Dainik Bangla Mor," is no great hassle. Yet to catch a bus and endeavour to get an adequate seat in it, it is next to impossible.

Everybody cannot afford a private car and not all offices have the arrangement of collecting the workers by van or bus. Sometimes individual would prefer to finish part of their assignments before scampering into the office rooms.

Since democracy prevails, and everyone has the right to hold meetings, anywhere and everywhere, and there are the consequent reactions from the peacekeepers of the city — the police, the trip from Dhanmandi to Motijheel sometimes appears far more complicated than a trip to London, USA or even Down Under.

Travelling abroad you simply change jets, watch films on the way, or listen to music, or even lazily glance through any available magazine. This is not possible going from Dhanmandi to your destination. Sometimes the "rickshawwalla" takes me through the Park Road area, past many traffic jams, with buses and various other vehicles emitting carbon monoxide. At times I have landed up in a tear-gassing situation, and much worse condition.

there is the inevitable tyre puncture. You are then compelled to get flustered before you reach office, via the bylanes of Dhaka, with all their bumps and jerks.

I have gone via New Market and various other routes — of which I have little notion — as I pull down the blinds of the "baby-taxi", or cling on hard to the scruffy sheet of plastic in the "rickshaw", during the rainy season.

There is so much ado in just the business of going to work, you can easily envisage the problems that I encounter when I visit my cousins, who incidentally live in Motijheel.

My mother usually takes it for granted that I am having a gorgeous time with my cousins and friends at Motijheel, even when there is any disturbance of any nature in town. She sometimes imagines I am gossiping with friends and colleagues, when getting back home from simply Motijheel to Saatmasjid Road can sometimes be an ordeal.

I naturally have shopping to do for my family and friends from time to time. This makes the matter of reaching my destination even more complicated.

How I wish I had a private helicopter to get to work!

What's on today . . .

Seminar on Duty Drawback System

A national seminar on "Duty Drawback System" will be held today (Tuesday) at 9 am at the conference hall of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) under the joint auspices of the Duty Exemption and Drawback Office (DEDO) and the Export Development Project, USAID.

Association of Physicians

The third national conference of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh (APB) will be held today (Tuesday) at 10 am at the Hotel Sonargaon.

Rotary Club of Dhaka

The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held today (Tuesday) at 5 pm at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Cabinet meet held

The regular weekly meeting of the cabinet was held Monday at Hangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, reports BSS. Ministers, State Ministers-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

Handicraft exhibition Jan 17

The two-day annual handicraft exhibition of the Bangladesh Navy Family Welfare Association will begin at the Retired Army Officers Club (Raowa) premises at Mohakhali on January 17, and 18. According to an ISPR press release in Dhaka Monday, reports BSS.

There will be stalls and pavilions of handicrafts, readymade garments, food offering delicious dishes and snacks, magic show, cultural show and other amusements for people of all ages.

The exhibition will remain open to the visitors from 11.30 am to 7.30 pm on Friday and 10 am to 7.30 pm on Saturday.

In Memoriam



Mr. Abul Qasem, FCA, passed away on this day a year ago. On his First Death Anniversary, we, the members of his family, deeply remember and mourn the departed soul. How can we forget him when he gave us so much to remember?

In loving remembrance,

Mrs. A Qasem
Sanjida Kasem
Shakil Kasem & Farzana
Sohel Kasem & Jabeen
Sadaat, Sajid, Wash and
Sadaaf

Best Wishes
to
the Management,
employees and readers of
The Daily Star
on the occasion of its
First Anniversary



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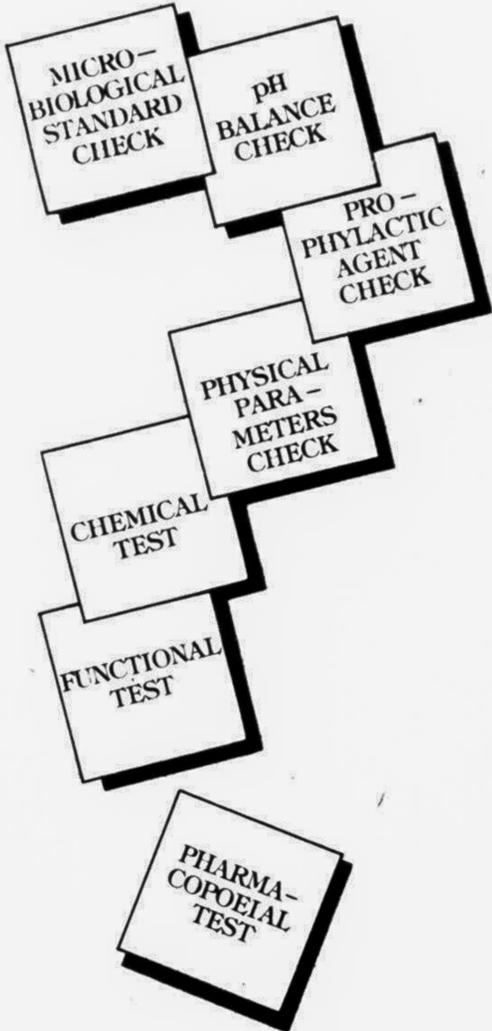
Pharmacopoeial Test:

To confirm the purity of raw materials.

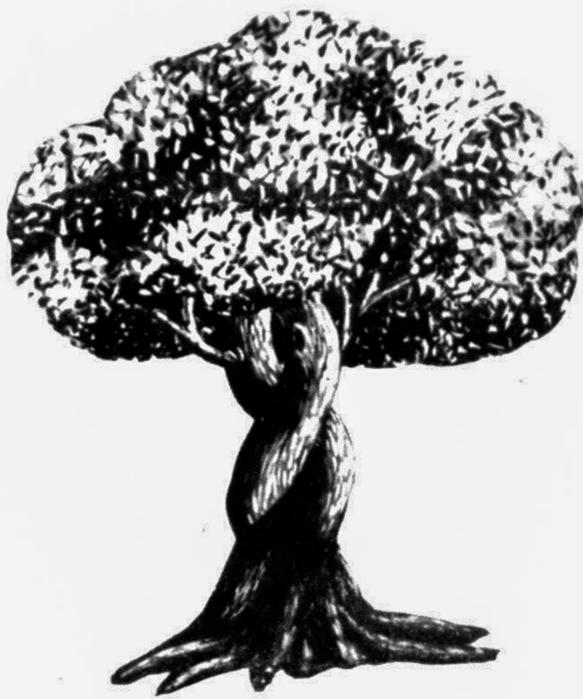
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আমাদের অসীম সুজাগর্য ও সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের জানাই নববর্ষের শুভেচ্ছা

হোসাফ মিটার অসম্পূর্ণিক প্রস্তুতিসহ কম্পিউটারে যথামত ডন ও মান নির্ধারণ করে তৈরি

আমাদের শোকম সখবা দিল্লীর কাছ থেকে কেনার সময় প্রাতি হোসাফ মিটারের সাথে একটি করে সুদৃশ্য ক্যালেন্ডার সংগ্রহ করুন।

গণকর্মের কারিগরী সহযোগিতায় তৈরী গারান্টিয়ুক্ত উৎকর্ষ মান সম্পন্ন বিদেশী টাইমনিয়ারের তহবিলধানে Type DD-174 এবং HI-1 লক্ষ লক্ষ বৈদ্যুতিক মিটার বিশ্ব ব্যাপক প্রশিমান উন্নয়ন ব্যাংক এবং ওপেক স্বপের আওতায় বিদ্যৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প সমূহে বেশ কিছু বছর ধরে বাংলাদেশে প্রশংসনীয়ভাবে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে

h হোসাফ মিটার ইন্সটিটিউ লিঃ

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