



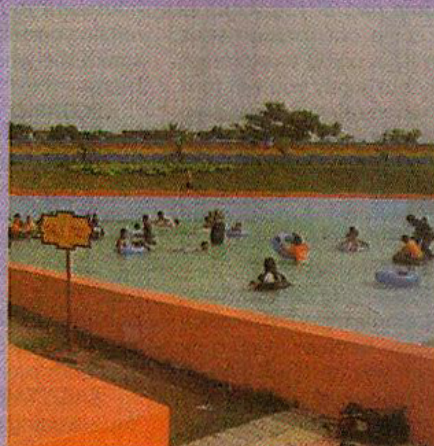
Rising Stars



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Hindi soaps & thunderbolts



Nandan PARK

Nandan Water Park sounds familiar? Uh-huh. Yeah. Here's the interesting part, apparently it's a section of Nandan Park (actually more of an independent section). So imagine our condition when some friends of mine and I approached the gates of the Water Park, realising that we had spent more than a quarter of our cash on the Festival Area (rest of the Nandan Park). However, we did survive the day having loads of fun. Here's a comprehensive review of everything you may encounter in the theme park - including financial suggestions (just so you don't end up clearing garbage for the park to pay off your debt). Enjoy.

The Festival Area has much to offer, but none of them are up to the standards of the Water Park rides. Since you have to pay for each ride in that area (including Tk50 for entrance), I guess you wouldn't want to hang out there for long. However, the Water Coasters are definitely worth checking out (the ONLY rides worth checking out in that area apart from the Cable Car) - two mammoth waterslides consisting of enormous drops and curves. Not for the faint of heart.

The Cable Car is a rad way to get a view of the mesmerising landscape of the park. So if you want a short tour before you begin

exploring the place, get aboard a cable car and observe all the attractions from above. Prepare your day accordingly; or you can check them out when you've endured the wicked rides, begging for more and about to leave the arena, thinking 'I've got thirty bucks left and the thing looks delirious, so why not?' The cable car is a one-way ride, so no worries about where it's going to drop you off. Anyway, the rest of the review is based entirely on the Water Park.

The Water Park itself has a separate entry fee Tk250 for adults and less for children (therefore I suggest each individual carry minimum Tk500). Although the fee may seem expensive, everything inside the Water Park is free of charge, except the food (and the lockers - to some extent). The lockers are charged Tk100 each. However 70% of the total amount is returned after usage of the lockers (the procedure is repeated every four hours).

There are several non-adrenaline-boosting attractions such as the 'Mist In Fall' (don't ask me what the title means, I just do the writing), which consists of a pool about a foot under water and an imitation of a miniature waterfall at one end. A similar offering is the 'Kiddie Pool'. Frankly there were more adults than children present. It is basically a playground with various slides and

swings half submerged in water. Although the Kiddie Pool and The Mist in Fall may seem to be wastage of time, I strongly suggest the readers to check them out (especially The Mist In Fall) either after a meal or before roughing out the heart-pumping rides.

The curved and the linear water slides are absolutely amazing (NOTE: These slides are NOT the Water Coasters mentioned). For the majority of rides under a similar category, the 'fun-to-horrifying' ratio is much more biased towards the latter (to those who are afraid of heights). However these water slides are much more enjoyable and provide the perfect dose of adrenaline rush to the riders. There's also a separate 'Women's Curved Slide' for women who may feel uncomfortable in the mixed crowd.

'The Wave Pool' presents its occupants with a weird combination of feelings. The experience of moving back and forth on the waves will probably astound you whereas the moment when the water (saturated with god-knows-what) enters your lungs is sure to leave you wondering 'how the hell did I end up in the sewers?'

For the conclusion, I guess it's fair to say that Nandan Park is probably more than what you may have come to expect and a definite must-go even if it means you may have to stay back clearing garbage. Kidding.

By PAPER OR PLASTIC

God's getting cheeky. Before, He used to torture the evildoers (I mean us) with drought, plague and thunderbolts. Now, He tortures us with Hindi soap operas. Seriously.

That day I was watching One Night at McKools in the DVD (wink, wink), and suddenly this fifteen-year-old cousin of mine popped up from nowhere and snatched the remote away from me, threatening to call Mom the Magnificent if I wouldn't co-operate. As fate may have it, her Hindi soaps were about to start.

Personally, I'm yet to discover what the ladies find so fascinating about a bunch of people getting married, remarried, and re-remarried over and over again. All right, maybe the idea of going for a honeymoon every two months with a different partner every time is kind of steamy. Don't the soap characters have other things to do in life, like visiting a psychiatrist or something?

The Hindi soaps are so stereotyped that sometimes the news bulletin from BIV World ends up being more fascinating. Being an absolute TV freak and being the son of a mother who's an absolute Hindi-soap freak, I've spent a major part of my life hiding behind the sofa set, conspiring how to steal the remote away from my mother's cruel grasp. Hence, I've had the misfortune of bumping into plenty of Hindi soap operas.

Frankly, it's still beyond my perception how mom manages to watch each and every of the soaps, with so much enthusiasm. After all, they all have the same story, don't they?

There's a man called A, and there's a woman called B. A and B meet, fall in love, and get married. After a few days, they quarrel, and get divorced. Then A meets B's younger sister (lets call her C), they fall in love, and get married. While B meets A's elder brother (lets call him D), they fall in love, and get married. Soon A starts quarrelling with C, and they get divorced. While B starts quarrelling with D, and they get divorced. Then A and B meet again, fall in love, and get re-married. While C and D meet again, fall in love, and get married. By the time C and D are married, A and B are quarrelling again. By the time A and B are getting re-divorced, C and D are quarrelling again... Sorry. There's just so much love and marriage and divorce, I just couldn't help it.

I've always complained on how meagre we get paid at the RS. I bet the Hindi soap writers get 'meagrer' pay.

By Tawisif

