

Things to Do and Places to Go

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If you're feeling pretty discouraged by the fact that 2004 has been a year of controversies, of raining grenades and smoking Bangabazar, up to mass bloodshed and destitution -- it is understandable -- after all, we have pretty much seen and done it all this year. One might be tempted to suggest that reviewing our accomplishments would be like finding a needle in a haystack -- but there have been a couple of interesting events and new establishments in the city worth taking notice of and that point to better times ahead.

The opening of the long awaited fly-over has been a big topic of discussion, along with Bashundhara City in Panthapath, claimed to be one of the biggest shopping malls in Asia. Upon the opening of these two, the city dwellers found something great to talk about. The fly-over gave us the feeling of meeting up with the fast paced world while Bashundhara City gave us loads of entertainment, from the Star Cineplex to the numerous shops and fast-food outlets. At least now young people have some place to hang out at rather than having to loaf around in the streets with firearms.

Recently, the city's main roads have been carpeted, the islands and road dividers have a new look with the intensive face-lifting scheme of the government. The roads now sport arty, mind-boggling sculptures. This is thanks to the 'beautification' programme in honour of the 13th Saarc summit which was supposed to be held in the nation's capital in January. The summit has since been postponed and who knows perhaps so has the 'beautification' efforts.

The bright new traffic lights with computerised signaling systems add to the metropolitan look, the main roads are being cleaned and dividers are kept sparkling green. This is all in tune with the opening new Bangladeshi and international fast-food joints like A&W and bookstores

This stirring atmosphere also resulted in opening new practice points, popularly called jamming pads. With cool lighting and decorations and rocking atmosphere, these joints provide the ultimate hangout place.