Another aspect you can't miss when you are driving around the city are the rickshaws. They are everywhere; all over the city. They'll suddenly stick a hand out and take a turn before you can work out when to brake or they'll just suddenly appear in front of you, casually cycling towards you, in the wrong lane with no worries about any head on collisions. Then there are the Riders, the mini-buses that will stop just about anywhere and anytime to pick up or drop anybody. And of course how can one forget the endless number of buses, trucks and taxis, none of which have a decent window pane, a scratchless/dentless body, an approachable smell or even the slightest clue what cautious driving is. As if all of that drama was not enough, the jonogon and their liberal movement on the streets just make the cherry on top for any driver. They are the folks who will cross the road no matter what. If life is at stake, so be it. Obviously nobody will use the overhead bridge; it's too safe. No sir - that is meant for sightseeing, for selling jhalmuri and for pasting advertisements. Strictly.

The more I think about the roads the more I feel like carrying on writing. I suddenly pictured 'the accident', where two drivers tirelessly argue while everybody else stares to watch the show and the 'railway crossing', where as the bar falls, the cars desperately try to squeeze through not realizing that the rail is meant to protect their lives! Then I pictured the beggars continually tapping on the window making a racket that even an i-Pod cannot block and the ladies in their sarees crossing the road, over the barbed wire, and I salute them. Actually I salute them all; the entire city and the people who drive in it everyday. I would have to be a cat with nine lives or perhaps two cats with eighteen lives, to survive the trials and tribulations of driving in and around Dhaka. May God bless this city.

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Mathematical Olympiad '08 and some thoughts

Jubayer Al Hossain

NO science can progress without the involvement of mathematics. Biology is no exception and so is biotechnology. Biotechnology embraces several branches of advanced biology in order to optimize biological products. In doing this, somewhere biotechnology meets mathematical application. Even by meeting with mathematics, biotechnology has given birth to some sophisticated branches of modern science. Bioinformatics is one of them. Apart from this, practice of mathematics would also increase the practice of science itself. That's why *Biotech* magazine club of Khulna University was and still very much keen to jump into the bandwagon of mathematical Olympiad. So, when the mathematical Olympiad committee invited *Biotech* magazine club, it aptly sounded worthy to *Biotech* members. *Biotech* magazine club consists of general students of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering Discipline of Khulna University. The main objective of this magazine is popularizing the practice of science in Bangladesh. Eying this objective, *Biotech* members presented some important topics of Biotechnology and its affiliation with mathematics as well. Apparently mathematics can fuel up Biotechnology in various ways. For instance, we can consider the Human Genome Project. Sequencing of human genes is not a Mickey Mouse job. It badly implied a lot of insightful biological knowledge in collaboration with some undeniable mathematical applications.

Bioinformatics, nanobiotechnology these are the offspring of that fusion. This story doesn't end here. There are several other areas where mathematics is a helpful means to reveal biological mystery. Bulk of the *Biotech* presentations encompassed that theme through posters in addition to some beautiful hand-made structures of several important biological model organisms. They also arranged instant quiz competitions consecutively with small groups of visitor students. There was a very congenial environment throughout the ceremony and also in the *Biotech* stall. Sometimes it was inspiring when the General Secretary of mathematical Olympiad Munir Hasan visited the stall. He acclaimed all *Biotech* presentations and said that these would certainly help us to escort modern science to our general people. Biotech members found it very pleasing to join the ceremony. But, that pleasure would have been more intensified if we had been able to attend a Biological Olympiad as well. I sometimes wonder how much a biological Olympiad along with mathematics would accelerate the practice of science in our country. A burgeoning population has been jeopardizing our economy and progress endeavors. Only modern scientific application can boost up our gross production. Beyond doubt it is a challenge and Olympiad like competitions certainly make our students tune to that challenge. But it needs joint venture of each branches of science. I don't know what are the stumbling blocks for arranging a biological Olympiad alongside of mathematics. But I will hope relevant authorities would give it a consideration.

In effect Biotech magazine dreams of such an Olympiad. However, the mathematical Olympiad committee deserves thanks for arranging a competition like that. It was really interactive and worthy enough to attend the math Olympiad!

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