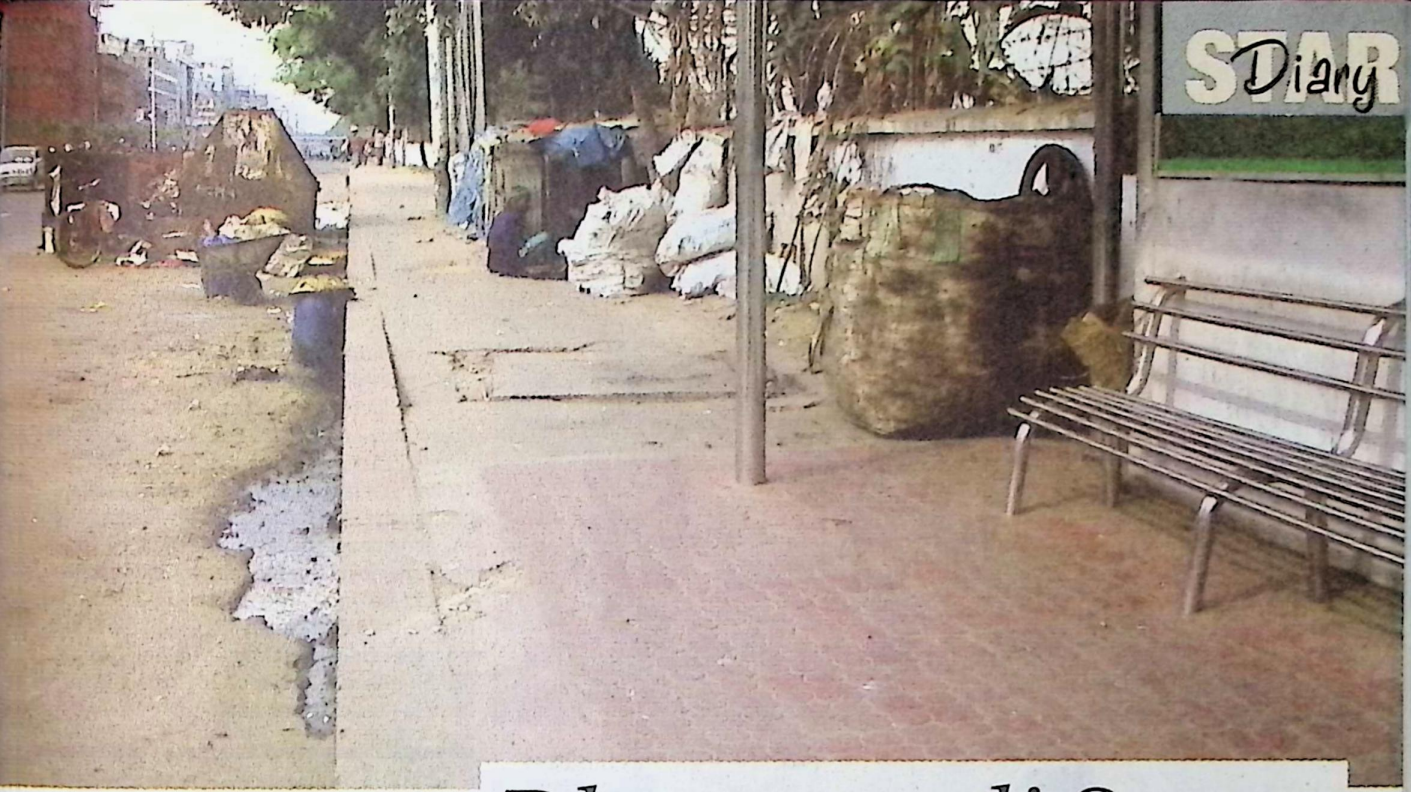


Dhanmondi Streets

Every weekday, I walk my way back home from school. I have to pass a pavement on Dhanmondi 8/A of which at a "mobile-calling" counter blocks one side, and just on the end of the pavement is a shallow deep hole filled with black smelly substance/liquid leaked from a drain. As I jump my way through, I wonder if elderly people jump as they pass the pavement like me.

The other day, my nightmare came true. An old woman was walking on the pavement, when a motorcycle running on the same path used his horn to ask the woman to make way. As she moved aside, she fell in the disgusting hole and lost consciousness. As I pulled the woman, along with some other men, the motorist went away. I was appalled by the motorist's mentality. There are two lessons that we learn from this - vehicles (especially motorcycles) are meant for the streets, not FOOTPATHS and busy streets of Dhanmondi need to be repaired.

Mohua Morshed
Dhanmondi
Dhaka

Safe Passage

When carnage on roads diminish us with almost unfailing regularity, I treasure a scene I saw on a busy road on the outskirts of Dhaka. A girl in her early teens was standing on guard as the mother duck with five or more ducklings fluttering their tiny wings hurriedly crossed the road. The sight made my day.

Syed Badrul Haque
Lalmatia
Dhaka

CELL PHONES NOT for females

A few days back I was taking a walk on my rooftop with a friend. After passing a hectic day at school, taking some fresh air and looking at the flowers in the garden of my rooftop was wonderfully refreshing and stimulating. We were talking and relaxing when we spotted a woman in her thirties taking a leisurely walk on the rooftop as well. She had a cell phone in her hand, and it appeared that she was waiting for a call. My friend was somewhat irritated at the sight. When I asked him why, he replied that males should use cellphones only! Even if females wanted to use cell phones, they should hide it and not leave it exposed. He considered the gadget as a symbol of financial status and sophistication, which obviously belonged to men. I was left baffled at such a remark. I wonder whether, despite advancements in technology, we have really progressed.

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