

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Living in the Concrete Jungle

The world is constantly on the move. A moment of peace is always appreciated in these busy times. I find my peace when I take a look at the sky from my window. However, last Friday when I looked out the window, I could not see the sky. Instead, I found myself staring at a multistoried building under construction. My grandfather once told me about the playing field where he would play football with his friends. Today our apartment complex stands on that very field. My mother tells me stories of how she would count frogs in the pond behind her house when it rained. The pond is gone today; a fifteen-storied multinational bank has taken its place. Everywhere you look, you'll see modern high-rises and buildings taking over open fields. Today I'll be able to go to another room to peek through the window and look at my sky. But will I be able to do it tomorrow?

Fabiha Tanzeem
Bangladesh Medical College, Dhaka

A POSITIVE CHANGE

On my way home in a public bus, I noticed the bus attendant behaving really badly with a woman. He was demanding more than the actual fare, probably taking advantage of the fact that he could get away acting in this manner with a woman. But the woman stood her ground, stating that she knew the fare and would not pay a cent more. The attendant continued to behave rudely, hurling insults at her. When she was about to get down at her stop, the attendant even tried to stop her by touching her. This is where all the passengers jumped in, rebuking him for his behaviour. I even told him that he had a mother and probably a sister and should know better than to behave in this manner with a woman. It is quite a common scene seeing a random man behaving badly with a woman because he thinks he can get away with it. The age-old patriarchal mentality is yet to change. However, I am happy to see that the new generation is sensitive and aware about women rights issues and even men are not afraid to raise their voice when they see a women being victimised.

Md Zonaed Emran
Executive officer
Janata Bank Ltd