



**MRITTIKA ANAN RAHMAN**

Host: Good evening, and welcome to another edition of TAILORS OF DOOM!

[Audience claps and screams out name of the show in unison]

Host: Today on our show, we have two groups of contestants from rivalling tailoring shops. Groups, please send one contestant to the podium and we'll begin Round 1. This segment is called "But I know better!"

[Audience laughs]

Host: Tell me about a time your client gave you specific instructions but you simply refused to listen because, after all, you know better.

Contestant 1 [hits buzzer]: One time a client gave detailed instructions on how her outfit was to be made and looked really excited about it. But she didn't know what she was talking about so I made the outfit exactly how I thought it should be made. I'm the one making the outfit so the process is clearly all about me.

Host: You clearly don't seem to understand how this profession works. 10 points!

Contestant 2 [hits buzzer]: A client once ordered some clothes to be made all in full sleeves but it was in the middle of summer so I don't know what she was thinking. I did her a favour and made them half sleeved. Turns out she lived abroad and was getting the clothes made to wear all year round. Oops!

Host: Now you're just wasting people's money. You get 12 points!

[Audience cheers]

Our next round is the "Vapid Fire Round". Contestants in 30 seconds name as many excuses you've used on your clients when you've completely messed up their orders and

you secretly knew it's your fault. You may begin... Now!

Contestant 4: I didn't make the dress too loose, you lost weight in the last two weeks. Congratulations on the weight loss by the way.

Contestant 3: The design I gave will look better on you than the one you asked for anyway.

Contestant 1: Oh, I've got one! It's not the worst thing that I made your *kameez* inside out. The fabric is actually quite nice on both sides. Try wearing it and you'll see.

Contestant 2: I know I said I'd use pink in the neck design but you see all of the markets in Dhaka ran out of pink fabric this very week and the closest colour to pink is black, obviously.

Host: Folks, stay tuned and when we return from the commercials we'll bring out the customers whom our tailors have told they're currently out of town to avoid delivering their clothes in our final round - "Guess Who's Secretly Still In Town?"

[Contestants panic]

[Audience cheers]

Mrittika Anan Rahman is a daydreamer trying hard not to run into things while walking. Find her at [mrittika.anan@gmail.com](mailto:mrittika.anan@gmail.com).

# A clean review of Dhaka's public toilets

*Nature's calls are quite often considered one of the most crucial calls humankind has to tend to. Those who have dared to defy the call of nature have paid in dire and embarrassing consequences that could have been easily avoided.*

**ARAF MOMEN AKA**

So, what happens when such a call comes when we are out in strange lands outside our homes? How will we relieve ourselves of such a crucial duty?

The answer is, of course, public toilets. Sure, restrooms in shopping malls and department stores exist, but where's the adventure in that?

Visiting public toilets are adventurous undertakings that cost 5 taka per visit. I have taken it to be my responsibility to go to some of the public toilets of populous areas of Dhaka to make sure that you, the average reader, will not be setting yourselves to the hidden perils that exist in the public toilets of Dhaka. Let's begin.

## Farmgate

We start with the public toilet located by the Farmgate bus stop. I'll personally honour it by addressing it as a "civic lavatory". This lavatory in Farmgate is clean, there wasn't even a speck of mud on the floor. The lavatory is divided into two sections: one for men, the other for women. The men's room was well maintained and had facilities like a shower booth, urinals, washbasins with liquid soap, and separate commode and squat toilet compartments with working flush.

Rating: 5/5 (Usable without worrying much about hygiene, sanitary and definitely quite a shock to find a public



toilet this clean.)

## Savar

Located behind the Savar bus station, this little abomination of a public bathroom is extremely difficult to find. It took me 20 minutes of searching and asking people around to find it. And when you're in, you'll be greeted with the stale stench of old cigarettes. The floors are wet and, although the flush does work, you'd be hesitant to touch the handles of the tanks.

Rating: 1/5 (Difficult to find, unhygienic.)

## Uttara

Right off the bat, this one is just as good as the one in Farmgate. Located in Azampur nearby the foot overbridge on the Sector 6 side, this civic lavatory is sanitary,

clean, has separate kinds of toilets and urinals, the floor is dry here, everything. My only complaint is the sandy walk to the lavatory, thanks to development work of the metro rail.

Rating: 4/5 (A properly set path to the lavatory would do it wonders.)

## Mirpur

Located next to the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, this public toilet is quite run-down, and a little difficult to notice. Inside, the washbasins are broken, and there's no running water. However, it is surprisingly clean and dry, with no stench that will force you to cover your noses.

Rating: 2/5 (Needs maintenance work.)

## Gulistan

I won't even point out the location of this place. For your own safety, don't go in. Don't even look at it. Please.

Rating: 0/5 (No. Just no.)

That's all the public toilets I'd like to visit for the time being. As you know, there's always a thing as "too much adventure". Remember to relieve yourselves of your duty before the duty itself messes you up.

Aka is a tiny bleep on the world's radar, and he finds peace in knowing it. Ruin his peace by poking him on [akaaraf@hotmail.com](mailto:akaaraf@hotmail.com).



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