



Realistic things to do in Dhaka traffic

And no, there won't be suggestions to read books, because honestly it's a nauseating affair in a car, a bus, and for the daring few, a motorcycle. Instead here are some fun and actually realistic things to do in Dhaka traffic.

NAZIFA RAIDAH

Talking about Dhaka traffic and talking to a wall is almost the same thing. You can scream and shout all you want, but at the end of the day you realise that it feels like talking to a wall, and unfortunately, this wall doesn't have ears as the Bangla saying goes.

While one would think that reports on the loss of productivity would make authorities shift from their seats and get them rushing to fix the drain in money – citizens of Dhaka are constantly made to feel naive even by having the thought of a fix. No authoritative figure is willing to accept traffic as an excuse anymore.

This is when the average citizen has no option but to delve into their inner cynic and actually make the best out of Dhaka traffic. And no, there won't be suggestions to read books, because honestly it's a nauseating affair in a car, a bus, and for the daring few, a motorcycle. Instead here are some fun and actually realistic things to do in Dhaka traffic.

Rant about the country's conditions with strangers

There's something that feels so inherently nationalistic and cathartic about ranting on living in such horrible conditions with a fellow

commuter, that I can't really make sense of it. Whether it's your CNG or rickshaw mama, or a fellow passenger on the bus, or your chauffeur, go on, start up a conversation. You will find yourself going over multiple topics from fuel prices to the Russia-Ukraine war to load-shedding and many more – so much so that the passage of time will quicken and ease the wait. Here's another topic that never gets old – traffic!

It's also humbling to realise that while you will be in your office or your designated place after reaching your destination, the man driving the vehicle has to endure more hours on the road, since literally, that's their profession.

Contemplate on things you want to do but never get the time for

A traffic jam is a classic existential crisis inducer. Since you have to wait excruciating hours doing nothing, why not remember that load of dirty clothes you have sitting on the chair for over four weeks? And while we're at it, let's not forget that instrument you once used to play that brought you joy, the book you started and never finished or even the new skill you wanted to adopt, but never got to start. Because you never have as much time as other people living in other cities do. Well, even if you don't want to, your mind is going to wander the longer you

stay in traffic. Best take a dip in the void before you distract yourself with productivity again.

Fry your brain with social media content

For the faint-hearted who don't want to take an adventurous ride through their minds, social media is the saviour. I mean, why waste time on consciousness when you can get yourself mindlessly addicted to a screen? And thank goodness for reels, right? Short 30-second videos that swipe up automatically when you're done watching. Not to mention how fast time goes by when you get caught in a 'reelception', forgetting why you got onto the social media platform in the first place. Let the tech lords micro-analyse your every behaviour and manufacture your every want and need.

Leave!

As a capital dweller probably the most civic-sensible thing you can do to save it, and fellow traffic worms, is to leave. Not only would that reduce the population, you can also talk about how much you miss Dhaka while living in a pollution-free, traffic free region or country. Slowly, you'll see yourself transition into Hannah Montana, living the best of both worlds. But plan ahead, it's going to take time to escape, because you know... traffic.

ChatGPT actually run by customer service firm in Bangalore: Study

AI FM AI CORRESPONDENT

A bombshell new study has discovered that the AI chatbot that has taken the world by storm, is in fact not artificial intelligence at all.

It is a hundred percent natural.

ChatGPT is actually operated by a huge customer service firm in Bangalore, India, according to a study by Stereo Type Westernview, a group of researchers in Mississippi, USA.

Presenting their study at a press conference in the capital of Mississippi yesterday, the lead researcher said, "After careful analysis of the software's behaviour and having talked to customer service agents for many, many years, the only conclusion we could reach was that ChatGPT is run by them out of Bangalore."

"We do not believe that a non-human could have told me about why the economy is tanking, or the intricacies of the Russia-Ukraine war," said John Smith, one of the researchers.

Researchers said that having talked to customer service agents, they know that they have books open in front of them on every topic, and that is also how the people behind ChatGPT are answering the questions.

"Also, sometimes ChatGPT takes some time to answer. That's actually just one of those people



PHOTO: REUTERS

riffling through their manuals," said Jane Doe, another researcher.

The clincher, she said, was that everyone was worried about ChatGPT taking their jobs.

"Okay, so who are the ones always taking our jobs? Immigrants, Indians. QED," said John Smith.

Asked whether it was really run by a Bangalore customer service firm, ChatGPT said, "No, I am an AI language model created and maintained by OpenAI, a research organization based in San Francisco, California. I am not run by customer service agents in Bangalore or any other specific location. I operate autonomously, using advanced machine learning algorithms to generate responses to questions and other input."

That, Smith said, is exactly what a customer service agent pretending to be ChatGPT would say.

Disappointment as dream of seeing Boi Mela from metro rail still unfulfilled

MAHUBUB ALAM MUNNA

Some people in the capital have reacted with disappointment as their supposed dream of looking at the Boi Mela will not be fulfilled this year as the section of the elevated railway that passes near the book fair venue is yet to come into operation.

Unidentified experts in the field of public disappointment say they do not know why there would be disappointment in this regard, as the section of metro rail was not supposed to be in operation before December this year.

Zubair, a boy from Uttara, was regardless eagerly waiting for the precious day when he could zoom by the book fair, but frustration engulfed him completely when he realised he would have to visit the Boi Mela on foot once again. "I hate crowds. I was on cloud nine when I first heard that there was a metro rail route from Agargaon to Motijheel, via TSC. I thought that my days of struggling in the crowd



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

were over and I would be able to enjoy Boi Mela while flying over that area on metro rail.

"People make fun of Uttara and I was all set to make fun of them by uploading photos of TSC, Bangla Academy and Suhrawardy Udyan, taken from the window of metro rail. I can't believe I have to visit Boi

Mela on foot again!" Zubair said.

The unidentified experts speculated that Zubair may not have known about the date of inauguration of the Agargaon-Motijheel section because he lived in Uttara, and it took really long for news to reach there.

Meanwhile, some "too



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

confidential to disclose" sources said more than 60 percent of the people who visit Boi Mela, do so just to roam around the area and take photos for social media purposes to show off their love of books, which is as fake as anything else people post.

Several groups of people from

Uttara and Mirpur were in a race to be the first human being to have been able to visit Boi Mela without even touching the dust of TSC area, let alone walking.

"I wanted to be the first man to take a photo of TSC from a height, but the drone seems so far to be the lucky entity to be able to do that,"

said Tausif, who planned to take the window seat of the southward metro rail train so that he could capture photos of TSC, while asking his friends "Drone diye ar koto chobi tulbo?"

"Getting down at TSC from metro rail is more cinematic than getting down from a rickshaw. I have been dreaming of commemorating this most awaited moment with a photoshoot and a TikTok video. But I cannot believe, like previous years, I have to get down from a rickshaw this year too. Can you imagine the pain when your long-cherished dream gets shattered every year?" said Suzana, a girl from Dhanmondi.

Since even persons from Mirpur and Dhanmondi were taken aback by the well-known-by-most fact of the metro rail section's planned inauguration date, unidentified experts concluded that some people do not keep up with news, and expressing disappointment is a hobby even more popular than fake intellectualism on social media.