

Dream Dhaka City--- Vision 2020

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In the year 2020, Bangladesh is going to celebrate her 50th year of Independence. People of Bangladesh want to celebrate that grand gala even as a proud nation that has risen above most of its dire problems and is accelerating remarkably towards development. Our freedom fighters, dead or alive, should be able to shower in bliss and joy, that justice has been done to their dreams and visions.

Being a signatory to the declarations of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the United Nations General Assembly 2000, Bangladesh has already promised to reach some ambitious goals by 2015. The high-profile terms and promises are not quite befitting to project the Vision 2020 for a Master's grader, like me. The elements and scenes of my vision are much simplistic. They have been painted out of the influences of the daily city life that I am subjected to. The thoughts that have piled up, the feelings that have flocked, the knowledge that I have about the first world countries, the association that I have with science and technology – all these have smoothly intermingled to create my Vision 2020 of Dhaka City.

The most terribly striking aspect of Dhaka to me is its huge population. And this overload of people is the root of most of the problems that the city is facing. Problems of housing, boarding, transport, water supply, sanitation, poverty, crimes, utility infrastructures, depletion of parks and open spaces and the list is quite unending. Nevertheless, people are still migrating in waves in Dhaka and most are setting down in slums and squatter settlements and living the worst possible life. As much as I have seen and heard, these people could have lived far better lives in their own villages and suburbs. But the bait of better employment and greater facilities has dragged them to such miserable states and ways of life. Hence, there is enormous need for decentralization: creating more jobs, business opportunities, health and education facilities as well as the supporting infrastructure, along with redistributing/accommodating industries, factories and administrative bodies (which are not of supreme importance) of the government functionaries to divisional, district and upazila towns. In addition, actions need to be taken so that all these migrants can be strongly convinced that modern methods of agriculture, cultivation, farming, fishing, livestock-rearing can reap very profitable means of earning a living. A campaign like "Let's live life at the Roots" could actually be started! Moreover, the entire mind-set of the people of Bangladesh should be raised to higher standards. People must learn to accept the fact that every profession is respectful and must show their due gratitude for every service that they receive. What would happen to this aristocratic city society if all the farmers decided to stop working?

In these manners, a huge proportion of the slum-dwellers and many other people living in miserable conditions in Dhaka could be channeled out of the city, where they should be able to lead a happy and dignified life. At the same time, Dhaka would also be relieved from a lot of load.

Traffic congestion of Dhaka is the problem that I find to be the most disturbing. In fact, it is keeping the entire city and its people at a halt for a substantial period of their daily lives.

Undoubtedly, this badly hurts the economy and development. Since, we are confidently progressing towards a “Digital Bangladesh”, my vision here is a bit advanced. Obviously, I do hope that we will be having many more flyovers, but I also dream that we will have subways with super-fast electric trains, more commonly known as HSR (High-Speed Rails) in the first world countries. Such means of transport brings with it the great advantages of reduced pollution, hugely reduced travel periods, lower energy costs, lower maintenance costs etc. Moreover, I also believe that we will become sufficiently technologically advanced by 2020 to introduce intelligent traffic system incorporating artificial intelligence. Yes, the public locomotives used will be pretty much like robots. Not only will this keep congestions to a minimum, but will also be able to predict future traffic conditions based on real-time data, giving drivers more relevant information to choose the fastest route. Besides, they will ensure much safer journeys.

===== Bangla Version is available at our
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