

Noboborsho – a new normal

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usually, the sweet smell of jasmine clouds the air
mixing with excitement and happiness
as laughter trickles through the crowd
masses celebrating together the hopes and dreams of the new year
while forgiving the mistakes of the past
now, apartments smell of jasmine and the delicious smell of *roshogolla*
as grandmothers try to recreate their favourite sweet dishes with their grandchildren
and tech-savvy teenagers set up a meeting
as Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Uttara and Mohakhali
join together, wearing dresses they thought they would be able to flaunt
smiling and singing and yelling because of poor connections
still together, celebrating the strength and patience of everyone involved
along with the dreams of the new year
forgiving the mistakes of the past
& praying for the recovery of the present for hope of a future