



Parking on both sides of the road in front of Victoria University on road no 17 cause a bottle neck to passing vehicles.

# No respite from illegal parking in Banani, Mohakhali

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The Kemal Ataturk Avenue stretching from Kakoli intersection in Banani to Gulshan circle-2 hardly appears to be an avenue as unabated illegal parking in the entire area around Banani Bazaar has turned the wide thoroughfare into a virtual parking lot.

"It is called footpath but it is routinely occupied either by parking or by shops," said Abed Kanchan, a retired government official residing in Banani. "Occupation of public space illegally in such an aggressive manner is unimaginable in a civilised society."

The illegal parking on the Kemal Ataturk Avenue and in the Mohakhali commercial area hinders smooth movement of traffic and pedestrians. Most of the commercial establishments in the area are using the road as parking space for their vehicles.

The road no-17 and other adjoining roads and footpaths in Banani always remain blocked with a huge number of parked vehicles. Traffic police hardly take any action against the illegal parking despite the mess in the traffic management in the area.

The high-rise buildings located on the avenue house private offices, apartments, private universities, posh restaurants, residential hotels and commercial

establishments. Most of these buildings do not have their own parking lots.

"We have no parking space and we use the roads in front and rear of the hotel for parking," said the manager Firoz Akand of an 18-storey hotel Sweet Dream on the busy commercial avenue, when asked about the car parking facility of the hotel.

"I don't know how the high-rise building was constructed without keeping any parking provision," said Akand replying to a question. "Owner of the building could say."

The hotel owner could not be contacted for comment despite repeated attempts.

Piasa Kabaz, assistant registrar of North South University, said: "Actually we have no designated parking space. So, we use the adjoining road no-17 for parking and we have made it one-way so that we can easily use it for parking."

Sirajul Islam, DGM, sales and marketing of Nitol Motors, at the 15-storey Nitol Centre in Mohakhali commercial area said, "We have no parking space of our own. So, we have rented space in another building, besides using the road for parking."

Mukhlesur Rahman, marketing manager of a private company at the Rupayan Centre said their parking space is inadequate

because of limited land on which the 21-storey building has been constructed. The building has parking space for around 20 vehicles.

Fida Mahmud, a staff of the

Standard Group that owns the 20-storey Civil Engineers Bhaban in the same area, said that the building has a basement parking lot for 19 vehicles, which is quite inadequate.

All of these high-rise buildings are located adjacent to each other with a huge number of vehicles always parked on the road and the footpath in front of them, causing perennial traffic congestion.

5x3

8x3

10x2

15x3