Urbanisation and Dhaka City

Dhaka is growing very fast but not in accordance with the needs of yearly population growth. The present population of the city is about 12.6 million and forecasted to increase to 21.1 million by the year 2015, to be the fourth largest mega city of the world. The urban infrastructure, housing and other services cannot keep pace with the overriding demand of this growing population. The resultant effect is the inevitable expansion of the city into the metropolitan fringe with an intensive land use conversion, from rural agriculture to urban industrial, institutional and for residential uses. These areas are growing in an unsystematic way.

Most of the people living in these areas belong to low and middle income groups. The basic civic amenities like electricity, water supply, sanitation, health services, public transportation, etc., could not be adequately provided to the vast majority of people in these areas. Large scale unemployment and underemployment, poor living conditions, lack of recreational facilities, etc., are also features of the overall scenario of these areas.

A number of real estate companies are destroying the low-lying areas, wet lands, and flood flow zones for housing provision. This will create water logging in the central part of Dhaka city within a very short time.

There is some positive impact on the urban fringe because of rapid urbanisation; land value is increasing day by day, annual income of the people is increasing, and lifestyles are developing.

The fringe areas of Dhaka City should get better facilities.

S.M. Shah Mahmood
Urban & Rural Planning Discipline, KU

Price of CNG

The price hike of daily essentials is becoming an unbearable burden for the common people everyday. People have to tighten their belts beyond which is humanly possible. The caretaker government blames the prices in the international market for this. In the situation where the citizens of the country are experiencing a 'silent famine' due to the spiralling prices of essentials and households are in a predicament to manage the family they receive yet another shocking news -- the doubling of the price of per unit CNG. The reason shown by the concerned authorities is that the price of CNG is disproportional to that of petroleum. CNG is a national resource, comparing it to petroleum is pointless.

This is nothing but adding insult to injury. This decision will only further increase the prices of essentials and they will go beyond the reach of the low-income groups.

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The Dying Reading Habit

The chief Adviser Dr. Fakruddin Ahemed emphasised on the creation of a knowledge-based society. But the main instrument of a knowledge-based society, the reading habit is decreasing day by day. Our deep interest in visual media, lack of library facilities, bad effect of capitalisation are some of the main causes of this devastating situation.

To satisfy my appetite for knowledge, I am accustomed to going to different libraries almost regularly. This experience helps me understand that people have little interest in reading. Advancement of technology gives us a lot but at the same time, it is responsible for decreasing reading habit among people as they spend most of their time watching television, fiddling with the computer or using the Internet. Besides, the library facilities we have are not sufficient. People have to travel a great distance to find a library with sufficient books and good environment.

However, reading, a key thing for any research is an important role player for the development of any country. And a library is the proper place for comfortable reading. Hence increasing library facilities and implementing attractive programmes for increasing the reading habit among people are the key things for creating a sustainable Bangladesh.

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Announcement

We would like to hear from our readers. We would like you to tell us what you think of our magazine. How would you like to see the Star Weekend Magazine? What are your favourite things about the magazine? What do you think would add value to our magazine? What do you think should be changed and what should be abandoned completely.

Please let us know your opinions through post or email.

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