

Another car park to perish

City planners decry DCC move to build skyscraper at Karwan Bazar

TAWFIQUE ALI

Dhaka City Corporation is set to turn yet another car park into a high-rise commercial complex at Karwan Bazar in blatant violation of Dhaka city's master plan and town improvement act.

"We are doing groundwork for the project and we will float the tender by the end of this month," said Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

It should be at least a 20-storey complex and first three or four floors of it will have car parking spaces. DCC will invite a real estate developer to construct the building, said Khoka.

ASM Ismail, chief architect of the department of architecture under the works ministry, said DCC just cannot do it; the parking space is not under the ownership of DCC.

DCC cannot use the land commercially and then hand it over to private ownership, he added.

The then Dhaka Improvement Trust (DIT) in the early 1950s earmarked the car parking spaces in commercial areas like Karwan Bazar, Motijheel and Dilkusha in the master plan of the capital.

A number of parking lots were handed over to DCC for maintenance by an order during the tenure of military dictator Ershad.

City planners and architects denounced the DCC move saying it will contribute to worsening traffic congestion in the capital.

It is not understandable why DCC felt the necessity of constructing such a high rise when it miserably failed to provide city dwellers with their basic amenities, they added.

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DCC is set to turn the designated space for a car park at Karwan Bazar into a high-rise commercial complex site, violating Dhaka city's master plan and town improvement act. City planners and architects denounced the move as it will contribute to worsening of traffic congestion in the capital. PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

DRINKING WATER PM suggests separate supply line

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the authorities to install two separate supply lines to distribute water for drinking and general uses for the city dwellers to stop wastage and resolve the existing problems.

She issued the instructions for the Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) during discussions when a 19-member delegation of Bangabandhu Prokashali Parishad and Institution of Engineers Bangladesh led by its president Professor SM Nazrul Islam met her at the PM's office.

Hasina also emphasised preserving rainwater to use for domestic purposes.

She said these would help fulfil the demand for pure drinking water as well as reduce wastage of water and

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CANCELLED HILL PLOTS New lease after govt gets report

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

The hill lands recovered from the lessees for violating lease agreements would now be reallocated among the landless people in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) through a coordination process among the CHT affairs ministry, CHT Regional Council and three hill district administrations.

Following a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on CHT affairs ministry held yesterday, it was informed to the press that so far leases of 260 plots (each of 25 acres) have been cancelled as the influential lessees failed to develop horticulture or rubber gardens there as per the lease agreements and kept those lands unutilized for over 10 years.

Necessary initiatives will be taken as early as possible to distribute the recovered lands to the landless people, said chair of the meeting ABM Fazle Karim MP at a post-meeting briefing held at the conference hall of Peda-Ting-Ting restaurant, 20 km off Rangamati district headquarters.

He told the journalists that a report on recovered lands would be sent to the government immediately to take steps for allocation of the lands to the landless.

A process of canceling more plots, leased out years ago in

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Go tough on wilful loan defaulters

JS body asks authorities not to reschedule loans

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary panel has asked the authorities concerned to go tough on loan defaulters to recover money from them, especially the wilful defaulters by not giving them opportunity to reschedule their loans.

The parliamentary standing committee on planning ministry came down heavily upon a section of industrialists, who live a posh life but have wilfully declared their industries sick to get benefit from the government.

"There are people who wilfully do not pay the instalments against their loans and take the opportunity of rescheduling their defaulted loans paying 5-10 percent money when they are declared loan defaulters," Col (ret'd) Oli Ahmed, chairman of the House body, told a few reporters after a meeting of the committee at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. "Therefore, the committee has recommended taking steps to stop this practice."

"Most loan defaulters do not bother to pay their instalments for even five years after getting loans," said Oli, also president of Liberal Democratic Party.

He observed that the government and the banks will not be able to take up many important projects to meet people's desire

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Tigers wrap it up 4-1

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh completed their memorable overseas trip in style as makeshift opener Mushfiqur Rahim slammed 98 after Dollar Mahmud's four-wicket burst to script a five-wicket victory in the fifth and last one-day at the Queens Sports Club in Bulawayo yesterday.

Having confirmed the

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Swine flu cases jump

Infection toll rises to 74 with reports of 36 new cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of the swine flu infected in the country rose to 74 as government officials concerned confirmed 36 new cases yesterday. The cases were detected under the government's surveillance programme.

"Under the programme, specimens from typical flu patients are collected from 13 hospitals across the country and a community site and diagnosed once a week," said Prof Mahmudur Rahman, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research

(IEDCR).

He also assured that all the new cases are mild and the patients are receiving treatment at home provided isolation. The patients are from Dhaka, Sylhet, Chittagong, Comilla, Dinajpur, Khulna and Rajshahi.

Health Minister Prof AFM Ruhul Haque said the situation is under control and the people need not to panic.

"The government has enough preparation to contain swine flu and there are trained professionals in every district hospital. Besides,

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আমি কি বিদেশ থেকে প্রিয়জনের পাঠানো টাকা মিনিটেই*
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