

RETHINKING URBAN SPACES DHAKA AND BEYOND



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Dhaka's transport sector: any sight of a bigger picture?

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private vehicles will be allowed to move faster or enjoy some premium if they are filled to capacity," says Dr Amin.

At the same time, attempts at planning ahead for the new satellite cities that are springing up around Dhaka should be streamlined between different government agencies so that mistakes can be avoided while developing their infrastructure. Regions like Purbachal should get special attention. It is vital to develop the necessary transport links with present Dhaka and its zones.

THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY

As a driver of social change, technology certainly plays a crucial role. With Google traffic information, we can now choose the best route and congestion-free hours to initiate a trip, if our need can be met. With ride sharing apps operating in full swing, the average traveller on Dhaka's roads now has a significant number of choices in how they travel and what kind of transport is most effective. Uber and Pathao are disrupting the traffic patterns of urban areas in a good way, but they still need to be regulated properly to be effective. Smart sharing of traffic data, for example from Google, can help incorporation of congestion surcharge in ride sharing apps, in the bid to passively give commuters the choice of low cost trips in low congestions hours. Considering the initial conflict between the government's regulatory bodies and these ride sharing solutions, a point must be made about the government's forward thinking abilities. Letting Uber officially operate non-commercially registered vehicles may go a long way to creating an environment where private vehicle users can pick up passengers and



"Matching the infrastructure development work with policies that seek to reduce the number of vehicles on the road has to be developed."

PHOTO: STAR

effectively carpool to work, school or university, thereby reducing the number of vehicles on the road. The security concerns will remain, but a holistic approach to improving the

transport sector is paramount.

In conclusion

The entire transport sector, with all the players involved, needs to move past the traditional mentalities that

bind it and look, collectively, for a holistic, thorough and future-proof solution to the problems plaguing the beleaguered city of Dhaka. Short-term solutions or instant relief can only go

so far in alleviating the suffering of the masses—rising incomes, a forward-driving economy and the correct environment for innovation demands long-term solutions.

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