

# Dhaka 4.0: the promise of a smarter city



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AS rapid urbanisation gains pace along with technological advancements, cities are increasingly competing with each other to attract businesses, investors and people. As part of their competition strategy, they have begun to market themselves as smart cities.

But what is a smart city? A smart city is an urban area that uses different types of electronic data to manage assets and resources efficiently. A smart city should be efficient in usage of energy, and it should rely more on renewable energy. It should be efficient in managing waste—in fact, such a city should be able to reuse and recycle most of its solid and liquid waste. A smart city should emit minimum carbon into the atmosphere, and it should minimise its carbon footprint too.

Today, Dhaka is a city of more than 18 million people. The Greater Dhaka city area is more than 300 square kilometres. The population of the city is growing continuously, either by birth or by migration. Historically, the city is about 800 years old and it has many heritage structures. But the city's ability to provide urban facilities to such a large number of people is not growing at the same pace. Hence, the city must adopt a technology-led transformation of services to its citizens.

A smart city would have smart homes for its residents. Such homes leverage technology for optimum resource utilisation and living standard improvement. A smart city encourages more green buildings and upgrades the existing buildings for efficient use of energy. Smart homes deploy energy-efficient lighting and optimised illumination to keep buildings well

lit and safe, as well as energy efficient. The encouraging trend is that a lot of new buildings in Dhaka are being built using the green building specifications.

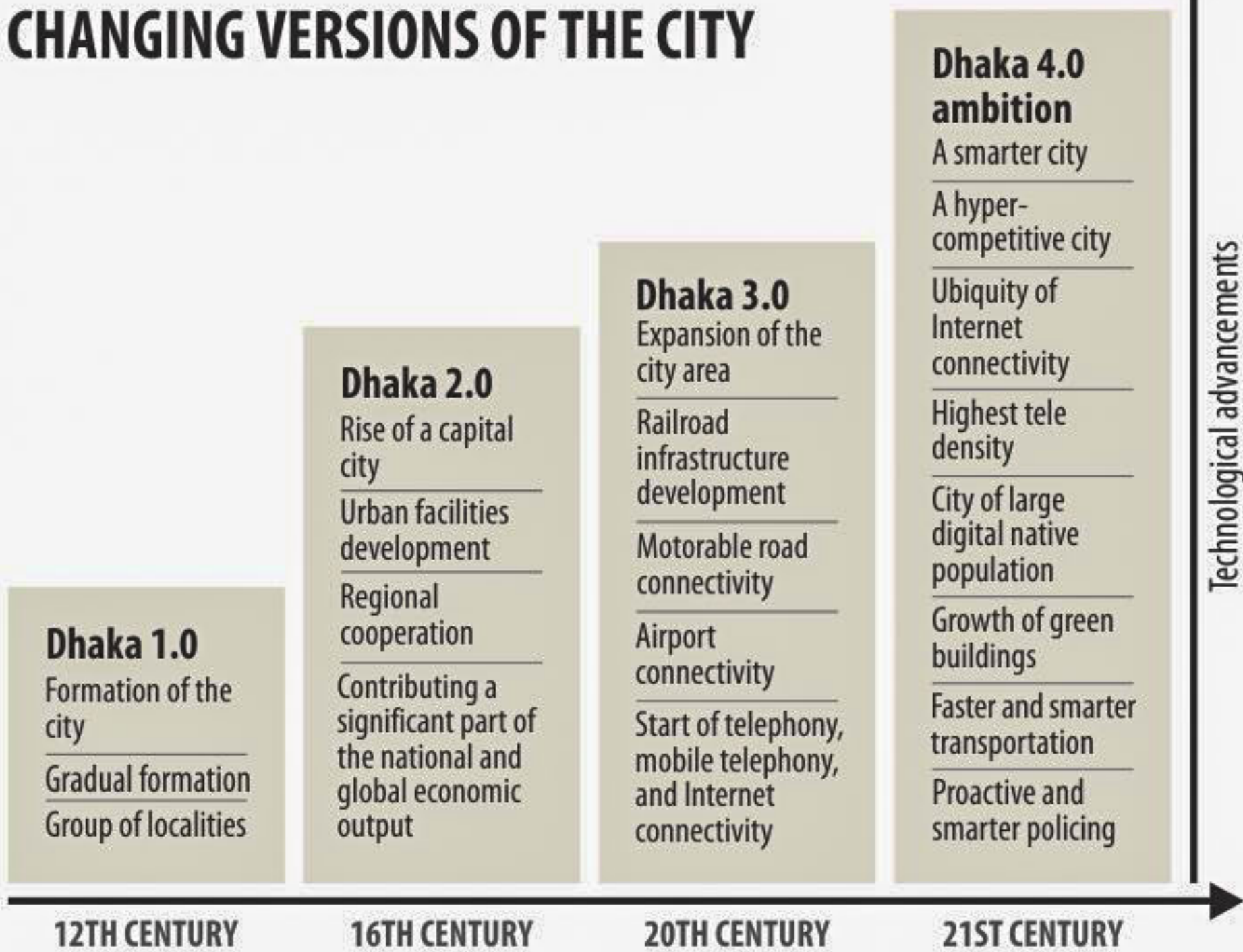
A smart city should be designed for an inclusive transportation framework. It should allow residents to walk safely and comfortably, or ride bicycles while commuting within the city. Many cities in developed countries have been creating separate lanes for riding bicycles, thus encouraging their residents to use this healthier and greener way of commuting. Some cities have started experimenting with bicycle-sharing platforms. Using such platforms, a resident can obtain a bicycle from a specified place and ride to his/her destination. Upon reaching the destination, the rider can return the bicycle to a nearby specified place. A similar model can also be tried in Dhaka to make the city greener, and its residents healthier.

A smart city should have an environment-friendly mass rapid transportation system for assisting its residents to move across different parts of the city. At the same time, motor traffic should be intelligently managed on the streets, providing most efficient utilisation of those streets. The parking areas should be intelligently managed so that minimum parking space can offer maximum parking opportunities to motorists. Electric vehicle technology has made significant progress over the last couple of years, and is becoming commercially affordable. A smart city should have well-spread charging points to encourage motorists to use such vehicles.

Further, a city authority must set a goal to create a framework for the information and communications infrastructure needed for making the city smarter, and for fostering an environment in which private enterprises can participate to build it. Such infrastructure can be built through collaborative partnerships too. Subsequently, the private enterprises can build value-added services on this infrastructure for the residents of the city. Public-private partnerships will be instrumental in developing everything that a smart city needs to ensure higher transparency into its operations.

Urban crimes are increasingly moving

## CHANGING VERSIONS OF THE CITY



indoors and online, and away from the streets. Domestic violence, child and elder abuse are taking place behind closed doors, while traditional police patrolling happens on the streets. Digitalisation has led to the proliferation of cybercrimes that do not occur in the physical world and are borderless. Today, citizens of Bangladesh spend a significant amount of time on the internet and social media platforms. In a smart city, communities move online, and thus they require policing there too. This creates new types of challenges for the law enforcement agencies. A smart city policing system should be able to address such requirements effectively.

Hyper-competitive cities are going to be the new order of the world with more than half of the population becoming urban by 2050. The trends are visible today. For example, Amazon, the largest online retailer in the world, has published a request of proposal from cities in North America for setting up its second headquarter, dubbed as HQ2. According to the

estimate published by Amazon, HQ2 will create direct employment for about 50,000 workers, usually individuals with earnings higher than any city's average per capita income. Such an open request for proposal has drawn the attention of about 238 cities across Canada, Mexico and the United States, which responded to this request. Amazon has shortlisted 20 of these cities for further evaluation, and will soon choose a city for HQ2. Dhaka 4.0 needs to prepare itself for such competition. Leading businesses that are headquartered in Dhaka today are also aspiring to become multinational companies. If the city cannot offer them the right kind of facilities and services, they will likely choose another city as their new headquarters and drive their expansion from there. Hence, readiness for competition at the regional level is going to be an important success factor in the coming years.

The writer is a partner at the PwC. The views expressed here are personal.

# White House optimistic on China trade; no date for more talks



REUTERS/FILE

Shipping containers are seen at a port in Shanghai, China.

REUTERS, Washington

THE United States is optimistic about finding a way forward in its trade dispute with China, but it does not have a date scheduled for further talks as it assesses Beijing's response to the latest round of tariffs, a senior White House official said on Friday.

The official said despite its protestations, China was well aware of US demands it halt what Washington considers unfair trade practices. US President Donald Trump has made clear his resolve on the issue, the official said, and the two sides remain in touch.

"We have been very clear in all of these meetings about what is ... required," the official said. "I am still optimistic that there is a positive way forward, and the president wants us to continue to engage to try to achieve a positive way forward."

The official's comments came ahead of a report by the Wall Street Journal that China had canceled mid-level trade talks with the United States, as well as a proposed visit to Washington by vice premier Liu He originally scheduled for next week.

Earlier this week, China added \$60 billion of US products to its import tariff list as it hit back at US duties on \$200 billion of Chinese goods that go into effect from Sept. 24. The escalating trade dispute has spooked financial markets.

Speaking to reporters at the White House on condition of anonymity, the official made clear the administration's ultimate goal was not to separate the inter-linked US and Chinese economies, but he said companies could choose to alter their supply chains if Beijing did not change course.

"Our goal here is not to cleave off the Chinese market from the US market. I don't think that's good for long-term growth," he said. "In the short term there is of course a risk that if China continues on the path it is, that some companies as a result of this may start ... to move supply chains."

The official also said he hoped Canada would agree to join a US-Mexico trade deal by the end of the month, while saying he thought US lawmakers would support a bilateral trade with Mexico if that did not happen.

US and Canadian officials have been engaged in talks to modernize the North American Free Trade Agreement, a 1994 deal that underpins \$1.2 trillion in trade between the United States, Canada and Mexico.

The official dismissed concerns separate deals with Canada and Mexico would have a negative impact on supply chains.

"I think it's overblown to say that if we have separate deals with these two, that there still can't be a really high degree of integration," he said.

# Britain tells EU to engage seriously on Brexit, EU demurs

REUTERS, London

BRITAIN said on Saturday it would not capitulate in Brexit talks and again urged its EU partners to engage with its proposals, as ministers in Paris and Berlin suggested the next move in the negotiations should come from London.

British Prime Minister Theresa May on Friday demanded new proposals and respect from European Union leaders, saying after a summit in Austria that talks had hit an impasse - a position her foreign minister reinforced on Saturday, even if that meant leaving the bloc next March without a deal.

"If the EU's view is that just by saying no to every proposal made by the United Kingdom, we will eventually capitulate and end up either with a Norway option or indeed staying in the EU... then they've profoundly misjudged the British people," Jeremy Hunt told BBC radio.

"We may be polite, but we have a bottom line. And so they need to engage with us now in seriousness."

May's defiant statement was welcomed on Saturday by many in the British press that had seen the Salzburg summit as a failure for

her. The Daily Express said it was "May's finest hour".

But initial reactions from across the English Channel suggested France and Germany were digging in too.

EU leaders and May have said they want to get a deal agreed in October, to be finalised in November.

In Paris, Minister for European Affairs Nathalie Loiseau said that, while France still believed a good Brexit deal was possible, it must also prepare for a 'no deal' outcome.

Britain's vote to leave "cannot lead to the EU going bust," she said on France Info radio. "...That's the message we have tried to send for several months now to our British counterparts, who may have thought we were going to say 'yes' to whatever deal they came up with."

In Berlin, German Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Roth said the other 27 EU states were striving to achieve reasonable solutions. "The blame game against the EU is therefore more than unfair. We can't solve the problems that are arising on the island (Britain) due to Brexit," he said on Twitter.

In London, the Telegraph reported that May faced the pros-



REUTERS

Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May arrives for a family photo during the European Union leaders' informal summit in Austria on September 20.

pect of ministerial resignations next week if she failed to come up with an alternative to the "Chequers" Brexit plan that she presented in Austria.

After May's Friday statement, European Council President Donald Tusk said that the results of the EU's analysis of that plan had been known to Britain for many weeks. But Hunt said there was a difference between rhetoric and substance.

"On the substance of the Chequers proposals, we have not

had a detailed response," he said, adding that EU proposals for the Irish border would mean that it was impossible "to leave the EU intact as one country".

Hunt also said Britain's economy would be able to withstand a no-deal Brexit, saying it was "absolutely right" that many Britons were now content to leave the EU without a deal.

Around 52 percent of Britons voted to leave the EU in a referendum in 2016 and 48 percent to stay.

# No-deal Brexit would have limited impact on German labour market: German magazine

REUTERS, Berlin

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government expects the impact of a no-deal Brexit on the labour market in Europe's biggest economy would be "relatively small", the German newsmagazine Der Spiegel said on Saturday.

Around 41,000 British people were employed in Germany in December 2017 and that number is insignificant for the labour market overall, the magazine cited a government response to a request for information from the far-left Linke party as saying.

There were around 44.8 million people

employed in Germany in total in the second quarter of 2018, according to data from the Federal Statistics Office.

The German government has repeatedly stressed that Britain cannot cherry-pick the elements of the European Union that it wants while rejecting principles like free movement during negotiations on its looming departure from the bloc.

Der Spiegel cited a government response to the opposition Greens as reaffirming that Berlin rejects British Prime Minister Theresa May's idea of maintaining free movement of goods between the EU and Britain after Brexit

while ending the free movement of people.

At a summit in Austria on Thursday, EU leaders rejected May's "Chequers" plan, saying she needed to give ground on trade and customs arrangements for the UK border with Ireland. On Friday May said that Brexit talks with the European Union were deadlocked, challenging the bloc to come up with its own plans.

"Throughout this process, I have treated the EU with nothing but respect," May said in a televised address. "The UK expects the same. A good relationship at the end of this process depends on it."

# As new iPhones go on sale, studies reveal chips from Intel and Toshiba

REUTERS, San Francisco

Apple Inc's latest iPhones hit stores around the world on Friday, featuring components made by Intel Corp and Toshiba among others, according to two firms that cracked open the iPhone Xs and Xs Max models.

The studies by repair firm iFixit and chip analysis firm TechInsights here, published this week, are among the first detailed teardowns of the phones, which reviews suggested were a subtle upgrade from the tenth anniversary iPhone X.

Supplying parts for Apple's iPhones is considered a coup for chipmakers and other manufacturers. While Apple publishes a broad list of suppliers each year, it does not disclose which companies make which components and insists its suppliers keep quiet.

That makes teardowns the only way of establishing the breakdown of parts in the phones, although analysts also recommend caution in drawing conclusions because Apple sometimes uses more than one supplier for a part. What is found in one iPhone may not be found in others.

Apple could not immediately be reached for comment. The breakdowns listed no parts from Samsung and no chips from Qualcomm Inc.

Samsung in the past has supplied memory chips for Apple's iPhones and was believed by analysts to be the sole supplier of the costly displays for last year's iPhone X.

Qualcomm has been a supplier of components to Apple for years, but the two have been locked in a wide-ranging legal dispute in which Apple has accused Qualcomm of unfair patent licensing practices.

US-based Qualcomm, the world's largest mobile phone chipmaker, has in turn accused Apple of patent infringement.

Qualcomm said in July that Apple intended to solely use "competitor's modems" in its next iPhone release.

The iFixit teardown showed iPhone Xs and Xs Max used Intel's modem and communication chips instead of Qualcomm's hardware.

The latest iPhones also had DRAM and NAND memory chips from Micron Technology and Toshiba, according to iFixit's study. Previous teardowns of the iPhone 7 had shown DRAM chips made by Samsung in some models. TechInsights' dissection of a 256-gigabyte storage capacity iPhone Xs Max, on the other hand, revealed DRAM from Micron but NAND memory from SanDisk, which is owned by Western Digital Corp and works with Toshiba for its supply of NAND chips.

Toshiba's chip unit Toshiba Memory was purchased by a private equity-led consortium earlier this year that Apple joined. In the past, TechInsights found Apple used different DRAM and NAND suppliers in the same generation of phones.

"For memory - Apple obviously competes with Samsung and wants to reduce their reliance as much as possible - so totally consistent that we'd see Toshiba for NAND flash storage and Micron for DRAM," Morningstar analyst Abhinav Davuluri said.