

WHY RETENTION AREAS VITAL

- Manage storm water runoff
- Improve water quality in adjacent bodies
- Prevent flooding, downstream erosion
- Bank stability, aesthetic benefits

KALYANPUR RETENTION AREA

- Total retention space 178.82acre
- Much of the land encroached
- Project to protect retention areas
- Turn the place into recreational spot like Hatirjheel
- Plan to be shown to PM on Nov 4

ECO-PARK AT A GLANCE

- Total Zone 10
- All connected by waterways
- No entrance fee for visitors
- To be able to enter thru 12-14 points



The eco-park will feature attractions such as a lotus pond and ferris wheel.

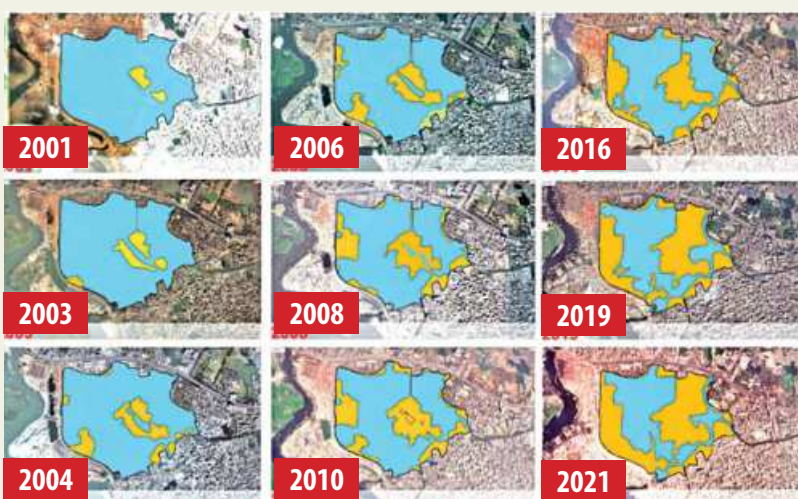
1. Cultivated Area
2. Viaduct
3. Co-management Training Centre
4. Parking
5. Boat Landing
6. Footbridge
7. Boat Club
8. Dhaka Wheel
9. Food Court
10. Parking
11. STP
12. Lotus Pond
13. Pump House
14. Floating restaurant
15. Jamboree Ground
16. Activity Dome
17. Biodiversity Island
18. Swimming Pool
19. Fire Camp

There are many encroachers there, so the land and canals have to be recovered based on CS maps, and the water navigation will have to be improved.

ARCHITECT IQBAL HABIB
Adviser of the project

We will recover the land gradually to implement the project. We have already held a meeting with the security exchange commission in this regard.

MD ATIQUIL ISLAM
DNCC mayor



Over 20 years, much of the retention area (blue) has been encroached (yellow).

DNCC to build eco-park at Kalyanpur

Project to free canals; set up recreation spot like Hatirjheel

HELEMUL ALAM

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has taken up an elaborate plan to construct an eco-park using the retention areas at the capital's Kalyanpur, a large part of which are currently encroached.

The project will not only protect the retention areas but also turn the whole place into a recreational spot like Hatirjheel, city corporation officials and experts say.

According to DNCC statistics, the total area of the retention space is 178.82 acres.

Of the total, 98.35 acres belong to Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC), while Bangladesh Water Development Board (WDB) possesses 6.36 acres, and 11.40 acres are government khash land. Dhaka Wasa's own land, 9.71 acres, and acquired land, 53.004 acres, is now under DNCC.

But DNCC currently possesses only three acres out of what it is supposed to have -- 74.114 acres -- as much of the land is now occupied by encroachers, said Shawkat Mahmud, superintendent engineer of DNCC drainage system.

Some parts of the land belonging to BADC and WDB are also occupied, he added.

BUDGET & FUNDING

- Budget Tk 2,000cr
- Projected deadline 2023
- DNCC to fund the project
- To issue "green bonds" to attract investors

Five Kalyanpur canals connected to this retention pond drain water into it. But, in the last two decades, private establishments and residences have choked the pond and canals.

Against this backdrop, DNCC took up the project, with a budget of around Tk 2,000 crore.

THE PROJECT

Of the project's 10 zones, five have been reserved for nature-based establishments, such as a base camp for youths; a biodiversity island with bee colonies, a butterfly garden and bird aviary; and an aquatic park.

All the zones are connected by waterways, and visitors will be able to enjoy the experience on boats.

There will be over 50 types of facilities in the zones, including walkways, bicycle lanes, children's playground, waste disposal and management system, and

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Mega projects interfering with DSCC works

Says Taposh, blames lack of co-ordination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of coordination among different service providing agencies is increasing sufferings of city dwellers, said Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday.



"It is very unfortunate that the metro rail authorities have sought permission to set up the MRT line at Kamalapur where our development work is ongoing," said Taposh.

Different organisations are working in an unplanned way without any coordination with the city corporation, he said.

"Similarly, we have taken huge initiatives for the drainage development work in Shyampur industrial area but the works of Padma Bridge project have blocked all the outlets of passing rain water in the area, which is causing waterlogging," said the mayor.

This is why the entire Shyampur industrial area is now affected by waterlogging, Taposh added.

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Durga Puja is being celebrated all across the country with due fervour and festivities. Yesterday, Hindu devotees performed the traditional "Kumari Puja" on the occasion of the "Mahashtami". One such devotee was seen seeking blessings from the Goddess Durga at the makeshift puja mandap at the capital's Khamarbari.

PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

DoE fines 3 steel mills Tk 16.2 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined three Chattogram-based steel mills Tk16 lakh for producing rods with their Air Treatment Plants (ATP) shut down.

The companies fined were Benz Industry Limited, CSS Corporation, and Islam Steel, all from the port city's Nasirabad area under Bayazid Bostami Police Station.

DoE Chattogram Office Director Mohammad Nurullah Nuri confirmed the matter, saying the mills

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Dengue claims two more lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two more dengue patients died and 211 were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till 8am yesterday, of which 162 are outside Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

With the new cases, a total of 2,532 patients were diagnosed during the running month out of a total 20,729 infected. Of the total infected, 2,813 are from outside Dhaka.

At least 7,841 were diagnosed in September, 7,698 in August, 2,286 in July, 272 in June while

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Death toll 82
13 died in Oct so far
23 in Sept, 34 in Aug, 12 in July
211 more hospitalised yesterday
Total infected 20,729

'No political events in name of seminars'

Jatiya Press Club issues statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Press club authorities yesterday decided not to allow any political programmes in name of discussions or seminars.

A press release signed by press club joint secretary Mainul Alam mentioned that the decision came in a meeting of the management committee chaired by club president Farida Yasmin.

The press release also said the meeting discussed that some "chaotic and untoward incidents" took place on October 10 on the club premises.

On that day, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir participated in a programme where BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman virtually joined as the chief guest.

On October 11, Awami League joint secretary and Information Minister Hasan Mahmud commented that the standard and dignity of the press club is being hampered due to meetings of BNP. He said "press club should not be a place of rallies like Naya Paltan [the central office of BNP]".

On the same day, the press club president issued a statement

where she said the virtual meeting with Tarique Rahman is contrary to the laws of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile on October 12, Awami League secretary general and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader also said BNP has made the press club a political podium. BNP's political gathering inside the press club is totally illegal and unacceptable, he added.

A day later, the decision of banning the political programmes came from the management committee.

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AL men behind e-commerce scams

Alleges Fakhru

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the "ruling party men" are involved in swindling money from online shoppers in the name of e-commerce.

"Huge amount of money has been swindled from people in the name of e-commerce. Who're the looters in e-commerce? Who're pampering the looters and who're giving them protection? The ruling party men are involved in it," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

The BNP leader made the allegation while speaking at a discussion arranged by Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui Smriti Foundation at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, marking the

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In the last couple of days, the capital has experienced a bout of tremendous heat, with the mercury reaching as high as 34°C yesterday. Amidst this swelter, business has picked up for street-side juice sellers, as customers thronged their outlets in search of relief throughout the day. This photo was taken recently from Sadarghat area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Terminal turmoil on Savar road

People suffer for indiscriminate loading-unloading of goods on busy thoroughfare; authorities keep passing the buck

AKLAKUR RAHMAN AKASH, Savar

Savar's Namabazar Road is a busy place. Every day, people from at least 20 areas of Dhamrai upazila and Savar municipality use the road, which connects to different points of Dhaka-Aricha highway and Savar-Singair regional highway.

The number of commuters on the road would round up well over lakhs, and all of them have to face extreme difficulty throughout the day due to the indiscriminate loading and unloading of goods from thousands of vehicles.

The area is a wholesale hub thanks to a nearby market that houses numerous businesses -- including pulse, corn, oil and saw mills, and wholesale grocery stores. As the area lacks a truck terminal, trucks, container trucks, and pickups basically use the road as a terminal.

Mohon Mia, a medical representative by profession, said he



This particular spot at Namabazar road is thronged by large vehicles loading and unloading goods right on the street throughout the day. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR

has been commuting on the road every day for the last two years. "I have to spend around two hours a day on the road waiting for the traffic to clear," he told this correspondent recently.

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