

Kamrangirchar to get central business district

Says Mayor Taposh

Bss, Dhaka

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is planning to build a world-class, modern central business district in the capital's Kamrangirchar to meet the current contextual demand and future needs that will help achieve "Vision 2041".

"We will build a central business district (CBD) at Kamrangirchar," DSCC Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh told the news agency in an interview at his Nagar Bhaban office in Dhaka.

The commercial hub will have to be transformed into a complete "business city" -- as a 50-storey skyscraper; a world-class conference centre and a hotel will be established there too, he said.

A draft of the plan titled "Prospects of CBD Development: An overview of Kamrangirchar (Dhaka)" was recently placed at DSCC.

The economic aspect of Dhaka has been taken into consideration to prepare the draft plan.



PHOTO: BSS

As per the economic review (based on the population census report of 2011), Dhaka metropolitan area has a total population of 14.17 million, comprising 33.78 percent of the country's total urban population.

Dhaka city accounts for only 8.7 percent of the country's total population, while its contribution to GDP is about 35 percent (according to the eighth Five Year plan).

To implement the plan, Taposh said they will have to reclaim the Buriganga river area from illegal encroachers.

"We will evict the illegal encroachers from the riverside, re-excavate the Buriganga, as per the desire of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and revive its old look. Illegal encroachers will be removed, no matter how powerful they might be," he added.

The mayor said water will flow along two sides of Keraniganj, once the old Buriganga is revived, and thus, an attractive atmosphere will be created in the area.

Taposh said once the CBD is

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MAKE CONSUMERS PAY MORE!

Ctg Wasa's solution to cover operational, maintenance costs; water tariff to rise by 5pc



FILE PHOTO

Precious water is spreading all across the road from a broken CWasa pipe in port city's Mansurabad area. This is a frequent sight in the city, but is seldom addressed by the water authority, which wastes a whopping 34 percent of its production due to system losses like this. This ends up severely affecting residents, who often suffer from a lack of water supply, and it is not unusual for them to come down to the streets in demand of water.

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Effective from January next year, residential and commercial subscribers of the port city will have to pay an extra five percent on their water bills, according to a Chattogram Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) decision.

The decision came on Thursday, at the 64th external board meeting of the organisation, Chattogram Wasa board member Mohsin Kazi told The Daily Star.

The move has left residents of the city frustrated. They said though there are price hikes like this every year, Wasa pays little attention to improve service quality and reduce system loss.

On the other hand, officials said the price hike was necessary to cover

operational and maintenance costs.

Currently, residential users have to pay Tk 12.40 for every 1,000 litres of water, while this is Tk 30.30 for commercial subscribers. Following the rate hike, the cost would increase to Tk 13.02 and Tk 31.82, respectively.

Chattogram Wasa has a total of 71,992 residential and 5,273 commercial subscribers, said sources within the organisation. Against their daily demand of 50 crore litres, they produce 45 crore litres.

According to a report run by The Daily Star on September 24, headlined "What a waste of water", Chattogram Wasa loses 34 percent of its water to system loss every year, which amounts to around 15 crore litres per day.

	Residential	Commercial
Total connections	71,992	5,273
Current price (per 1,000 ltr)	Tk 12.40	Tk 30.30
After 5pc hike	Tk 13.02	Tk 31.82

➤ Daily demand 50cr litres CWasa produces 45cr litres

➤ 34pc of production wasted due to system loss every year

After diesel and kerosene, now even water is set to become costlier. It's like pouring salt on a wound.

Port city resident AL AMIN SAWDAGAR



Sharp rise in deaths by lightning strikes

Finds study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's excessive population density and people's increased exposure to outdoor activities like agriculture have resulted in a considerable increase of deaths due to lightning strikes, found a recent study.

In the country, lightning strikes killed over 300 people in 2021; the number was 244 in 2020, 198 in 2019, and 359 in 2018, it revealed.

Lightning strikes are most common during the pre-monsoon period in haor areas, such as Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet, while during monsoon, they occur in Sunamganj, Faridpur, Madaripur, Manikganj, Tangail, Barishal, Rangpur, Panchagarh, and Dinajpur, it said.

The study, titled "Spatial and temporal analysis of Lightning, Reason and Way Forward", also found that fatalities in non-farming locations and during non-farming activities have been higher in the past few years, even though such locations and activities were regarded as the most common risk factors.

Ashraf Dewan -- professor at School of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Curtin University, Australia -- shared the findings yesterday at a webinar organised by Save The Environment Movement.

He said to reduce loss of lives, it is necessary to create public awareness, so people know what to do during lightning strikes.

The local administration can inform people in the short-run, while for a long-term plan, information on personal and family safety during lightning strikes

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STUDY IN BRIEF

- High population density, more outdoor activities resulting in more fatalities
- 53.17pc lightning strikes happen during pre-monsoon, 41.42pc in monsoon
- Lightning strikes killed over 300 in 2021; 244 in 2020; 198 in 2019; 359 in 2018
- Deaths in non-farming locations, during non-farming activities higher in past few years

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Create public awareness
- Incorporate safety instructions into curricula
- Stay away from water, objects that conduct electricity

And up it goes

Transport strike drives up vegetable price in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

As a side-effect of the ongoing country-wide transport strike, the price of vegetables has gone up at wholesale and retail markets of Khulna.

Wholesalers said due to the strike, sourcing produce from vegetable farms in Jashore and Khulna now costs almost double.

Visiting at least seven kitchen markets in the city -- including Boyra Kitchen Bazaar, Sandhya Kitchen Bazaar and New Market Kitchen Bazaar -- yesterday morning, this correspondent found almost all vegetables priced around Tk 5 to even Tk 40 more per kg.

To cite some, cauliflower was being sold at Tk 60 per kg, which was Tk 35 the day before yesterday. The price of green chilies stood at Tk 80 per kg two days ago, which is now Tk 120 per kg.

At the Truck Terminal Kitchen Market, the largest wholesale market in Khulna city, early winter vegetables were much shorter in supply compared to prior years.

"The same vegetables I bought



PHOTO: STAR

The same vegetables I bought just two days ago now cost almost one and a half times more.

MD RUSTAM SHEKH
A customer who came to Truck Terminal Kitchen Market from Bagerhat

just two days ago now cost almost one and a half times more," said Md Rustam Sheikh, who came to the truck terminal market from Fakirhat upazila under Bagerhat district.

"I used to buy cabbage at Tk 30 per kg. Yesterday, it was Tk 45!" he said.

A retailer himself, this development is concerning for Rustam. "How can we buy it at these rates and expect to sell to customers?" he asked.

Echoing the sentiments, another city resident Ruhul Kazi, who spoke

to this correspondent at Boyra Bazaar, alleged, "Some scrupulous people are taking advantage of the strike and raising prices."

Meanwhile, Khulna District Bus-Minibus-Coach Owners' Association joint secretary Anwar Hossain Sonar told The Daily Star, "We have not made any official announcement to stop public transportation."

"No instructions were received from the central. But since bus services

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Early dawn. A fungus amidst a field of green. Droplets of dew, with sunshine glistening off of their surface. If anyone had a doubt over winter's arrival, this one scene should suffice. This photo was taken from Khulna city's Boyra area.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE OFFICER

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- Ability to take decisions and get things done.
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