#### No subsidy for Dhaka's water supply

Says LGRD minister, promises to introduce zonebased rate for bills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said the government will not provide any subsidy to Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority's (DWasa) for supplying water.

"We will provide water to the poverty-afflicted people living in Dhaka at a cheaper rate based on the zones they live in," the minister said at a workshop at Press Institute of Bangladesh.

Saying most Dhaka residents are well-off, the minister raised the question of how acceptable it would be to subsidise the well-off population and earn revenues from those afflicted with poverty.

"Why a slum resident at Jatrabari should pay the water bill at the same rate as a Gulshan or Banani resident?" he asked.

Tazul also said they will increase zone-based water bills separately, where residents of well-off areas, like Gulshan or Banani, will have to pay higher tariffs.

The areas where people from low-income backgrounds live face a comparatively lower rate. However, no subsidy will SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Dengue death toll 22

Total number of

patients 6,447

**776** still undergoing

treatment

Number of recovered

patients **5,649** 

**90** more hospitalised

yesterday

SOURCE: DGHS



A farmer uses his basket as a shade to protect himself from the scorching rays of the summer sun while going to the field. The photo was taken at Bakarkathi of Barishal's Bakerganj upazila.

PHOTO: TITU DA

# Area-wise schooling for a better Dhaka

DAP proposes 'school districts' to ease traffic, alongside building roads, linking waterways

HELEMUL ALAM

In the new Detailed Area Plan (DAP), the government has proposed a concept that may very well usher in a liveable and sustainable Dhaka city, one free of traffic jams: "school districts".

According to the plan, the authorities have suggested building 627 schools, 285 colleges, and 287 hospitals. Students will have to be admitted to schools near their residences. After this is implemented, further construction of institutions will be limited.

"We will assess the necessity of educational institutions in a particular area. If new schools or colleges are required -- which will be analysed based on an area's population -- they will be built there," said Md Ashraful

Islam, DAP project director.

Ashraf said the education ministry will have to play a vital role in this regard, and the relevant authority will provide a guideline based on DAP, through the plan's review



Building 627 schools, 285 colleges, 287 hospitals

Construction based on an area's population

Building 6 metro rails, 2 bus rapid transits, 6 elevated expressways

Linking rivers, canals, other natural waterbodies

Turning 23 canals into recreational hubs

Block-based housing by building high-rises

committee, which will also be involved in implementation.

This committee, headed by Local Government and Rural Development Minister Md Tazul Islam, will hold meetings every three to five months.

At a programme yesterday at Press Institute of Bangladesh, Tazul sought everyone's support to implement the new DAP.

Adil Mohammad Khan, former general secretary of Bangladesh Institute of Planners, said this initiative is crucial to resolve the current situation, but land and funds are required under separate projects for the concept's implementation. He said local governments will have to play a vital role to find land and implement the plan.

"Only then will this DAP be successful." The government, on August 23, published the gazette notification for the 20-year (2016-2035) DAP, which covers 1,528 square km of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

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## 'Bangladesh, China strategic partners'

Says Chinese ambassador

STAR REPORT

China deeply engages itself with Bangladesh for joint development as an amicable neighbour and strategic partner, said Li Jiming, ambassador of China to Bangladesh.

He said this at an event on the 25th anniversary of "Hong Kong's return to China", organised jointly by Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Bangkok and Overseas Chinese Association.

Li Jiming delivered a speech on "Bangladesh and China's Hong Kong: Two Pearls Illuminating Each Other" at the programme.

In his speech, he mentioned Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to Bangladesh last month and said the two countries vowed to further integrate Vision 2041 with the Belt and Road Initiative, and deepen cooperation on infrastructure, digital economy and green development.

Looking ahead, the two countries show significant cooperation potentials in the fields of agribusiness, food processing industry, ICT, wind and solar power, and so on, he said.

and solar power, and so on, he said.

In his speech, the ambassador talked about the strong bond between Hong Kong and Bangladesh.

As of 2021, direct investment in Bangladesh

As of 2021, direct investment in Bangladesh originating from Hong Kong amounted to over \$1.15 billion, accounting for 5.4 percent of Bangladesh's total FDI stock, he said.

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### Planet in peril, must act now Speakers tell seminar on sustainable development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the planet is getting warmer every day, leading to natural catastrophes across the world, speakers urged world leaders to pay attention to nature and act immediately to keep the global temperature within the limit to save the earth.

They made the remarks at an international seminar, titled "Environmental Protection for Sustainable Development", organised by Awami League's forest and environment affairs subcommittee at Dhaka University's Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, also general secretary of AL, said a political blame game is at play regarding the issue of the environment, but hardly any thought is spared about the planet that is getting destroyed.

Raising the question of where the country's people will live if Bangladesh goes underwater, he said Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives are projected to submerge because of climate change if global players do not act immediately.

"To be specific, we are failing to save our planet. Nature is speaking, but are we really listening?" he

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This area at Lohar Bridge near Buriganga riverbank was at first encroached and used as a truck stop. Later, seeing that no monitoring occurs, locals started using the space as a dumping zone. This photo was taken recently in Kamrangirchar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Tax trouble for Ctg landlords

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

Abdullah Ashraf, a resident of the port city's Monsurabad, was surprised when he received a notice from Chattogram City Corporation tax last month to pay holding.

The six-storey building owner used to pay Tk 30,000 to CCC as the annual holding tax for years. This year, the amount has increased to Tk 1,81,000, which is six times more than last year's.

"When I asked the official concerned about the reason behind such increase, he told me it is because of the new assessment greaters" and Ashraf

system," said Ashraf. Abdul Haque, another building

The holding tax as not been reassessed in the past 12 years, though there is a provision to reassess it every five years.

REZAUL KARIM CHOWDHURY CCC Mayor

owner from Bakalia, said the CCC officials advised him to file an appeal against it.

According to sources, former CCC mayor AJM Nasir Uddin took

an initiative to reassess the process of collecting holding taxes in 2017. Terming the move illogical, Kordata Surakhkha Parishad, Chattogram, a citizens' platform, started a movement to stop it.

On December 10, 2017 the LGRD ministry postponed the initiative. The ministry has withdrawn the

The ministry has withdrawn the postponement upon a letter from the incumbent Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury last month, said CCC sources.

Against the backdrop, the platform submitted a memorandum to a total of seven CCC ward councillors on Tuesday to cancel the new assessment system. It also

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#### 'Attacked for my music' Narail baul singer assaulted

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** *Bagerhat* 

A baul singer has been living in fear since relatives and supporters of the local UP chairman allegedly attacked him and vandalised his musical instruments in Narail last month.

A harmonium, two ektara, a tambourine, a dugdugi, a set of tabla, and a dhol were damaged at his house at Purulia village in Kalia upazila on August 27, said Harez Fakir, the victim.

Harez filed a complaint against the alleged attackers with Kalia Police Station on Wednesday. The incident came to the fore the next day.

However, police did not arrest anyone. The victim was allegedly facing pressure from the perpetrators and local chairman to withdraw the complaint.

"The chairman wants us to withdraw the complaint. So, we are doing so," victim's son Mizan Fakir told The Daily Star. He said this is not



 Fazr
 Zohr
 Asr
 Maghrib
 Esha

 AZAN 4-30
 12-45
 4-45
 6-23
 7-45

 JAMAAT 5-05
 1-15
 5-00
 6-26
 8-15

 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

