

## Tk 454 crore housing projects in the offing

CDA plans to develop over 3,000 residential plots

ABDULLAH -AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken up three housing projects worth Tk 454 crore to set up urban villages on 422 acres of land in the northern suburbs.

Under the projects three urban villages named Nilima, Ananya and Kalpaloke Phase II will be developed in the rough terrain of East Nasirabad, Kulgaon and Bakolia, sources said.

The projects taken under the Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan (CMMP) will ensure sustainable environment conserving hills, water bodies, park and open spaces in those areas.

"Under the projects over 3,000 residential plots would be created alongside separate flat blocks and commercial plots", CDA Chief Engineer Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin said this while he was talking to this correspondent at his office on Sunday.

"Besides, sites would be preserved for 'retained green spaces' as well as for schools, colleges, shopping arcades, hospital, kitchen markets and play ground," he said.

Tk 240 crore Nilima project would be the largest one on some 217 acres of land at the picturesque hilly sites to the east of Foy's Lake at East Nasirabad under Bayezid thana.

The project site is a portion of 3000 acres of land where the CDA planned to develop three projects - Khulshi Phase 1, Khulshi Phase II/A and Khulshi II/B in late seventies at Khulshi.

The Khulshi projects were abandoned in early eighties as the government had not given permission.

Wanton hill cutting and use of a large track of land as brick fields

caused massive degradation of environment including the landscape there, sources said.

Sources in CDA said, 1200 residential plots would be developed under the Nilima project apart from commercial ones and flat blocks. Twenty acres of land would be retained as "green spaces" while 18 acres would be kept aside for creation of urban and other facilities.

The profile of the Nilima housing project has been sent to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing from where, it would be dispatched to the Ministry of Planning and Finance for its approval soon, CDA sources said.

The implementation of the project would start immediately after it gets the clearance from the finance ministry to complete within two years, they said.

The affected land owners will get plots on priority basis in proportion to their land," CDA chief engineer said.

The CDA board at a meeting approved two other projects - Ananya and Kalpaloke recently. They would be sent to the ministry concerned soon for approval.

CDA will implement Ananya housing project on 115 acres of land at Kulgaon under Bayezid thana at a cost of Tk 114 crore. Under the project, 1130 residential plots will be developed apart from commercial ones and flat blocks while 13.5 acres of land to be kept for open spaces and structures to provide urban and other facilities.

Tk 100 crore Kalpaloke Phase II will be on 90 acres of land at Bakolia. Under the project 831 residential plots will be developed while 14 acres of land to be preserved for open spaces and other facilities, sources said.

## TURNING A BLIND EYE



Construction of the much-coveted bridge on the river Shankha to link coastal upazila of Banskhali with Chittagong city remained suspended for over two years to the utter disappointment of the people of this route. Roads and Highways (R&H) Department started construction of the bridge during the immediate past Awami League government. Construction of half of the bridge was done with RCC pillars and spans on both sides have already been completed. Work remained suspended for reasons unknown. Besides, an approach road at Tailerdip at the Banskhali end of the bridge is being damaged seriously for lack of carpeting. At present hundreds of vehicles carrying several thousand people cross the river by ferry service everyday at a cost higher than the fixed rate, local people said. At the same time ferry service depends on the high tides. During the low tides they as well as the vehicles get stuck there for hours when local engine boats ferry people charging exorbitantly high. Accidents also occur here frequently as the vehicles rush to avail the ferry service. In absence of the bridge, many people are forced to cover some 56 KMs while travelling to and from Banskhali, some 22 KMs off the city, enroute to Patiya, Chandanaish and Satkania. The bridge is also important for the proposed TransAsian Highway which is to run through Chakaria in Cox's Bazar and Banskhali and Anowara in Chittagong district to reach the port city.

-- Abdullah-Al Mahmud

## Hot spell makes life miserable

Water crisis and erratic power supply remain persistent

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The persistent hot spell coupled with perennial water crisis and fickle power supply has made life miserable in the port city.

The juxtaposition of this three-dimensional problem has been causing untold sufferings to the common people for the last few weeks.

The resumption of second unit of Raozan Power Plant on Wednesday has made little impact in improving the situation.

There seemed no respite for the residents soon so far weather forecast is concerned.

"Hot spell may continue for few more days," Farah Diba, duty forecasting officer (DFO) of Chittagong Met Office told this correspondent on

Sunday. Such scorching hot spell usually persists till mid-May, she said.

Farah, however, predicts a change in wind pattern and little shower after the next week. "The sky has formed some cloud today and if it does repeat next one or two days then we can expect a rain at the end of this month."

The port city on May 4 recorded 38.4 degree Celsius temperature, highest in recent years, she added.

"Well, the heat wave can be understandable as it is quite natural in this season but what about the water crisis or loadshedding," asked Mainul Haq, a resident of Agrabad.

"We are tired of hearing the same old excuses or stereo-typed explanations from the officials concerned."

"Whenever you approach them with

complaints, they used to appear positive and promise immediate remedies but never fulfilled those," Hosne Ara Begum, a housewife at Katalganj, said.

Meanwhile, the heat wave is causing suffering to the city dwellers as many of them were attacked with viral fever, running of nose, diarrhea, chicken pox and other complications. Children are the worst sufferers of the diseases.

Crisis of drinking water in the second largest city has also been acute for years. Demand for water is increasing with the growth of population. The water supply and Sewerage Authority (WASA) in Chittagong has failed to meet even 50 per cent of the demand.

WASA hardly takes initiative to mitigate water crisis in Chittagong. The city of 35 lakh people,

requires 10 crore gallon of water daily. But WASA can supply only 3.5 crore gallon.

WASA Chairman AFM Solaiman Chowdhury at a view exchange meeting with journalists on Saturday said that Chittagong WASA was sinking due to massive corruption and irregularities.

On the other hand, power generation in Chittagong emerges as a matter of growing concern with the water level of Kaptai Lake declining fast and a mechanical glitch at Raozan Thermal Power Plant immediately after resumption of operation on Wednesday.

The 'curve role' of water of Kaptai Lake was 77.06 Mean Sea Level (MSL) on Thursday as against 90 MSL, the minimum height required for safe operation of Kaptai Hydroelectric Power Plant, sources said.

This poses a threat to all the three

units of the plant because the water level below 73MSL will force suspension of their operation, they added.

Only 110MW comes from Raozan Power Plant unit no. 1 daily since suspension of power generation at the unit no. 2 on January 4.

Operation of Raozan unit no. 2 resumed on May 5 after four months only to trip again only ten hours later due to mechanical glitch.

PDB officials, however, said that operation of unit no. 2 resumed again on May 7.

Around 630MW of power is generated in Chittagong when all the power plants including Raozan Plant, Kaptai Plant and Shikalbaha Plant are in full operation.

At present, total power generation in Chittagong stands at 250MW as against the daily demand of 465MW.

## theweekthatwas



Tagore's birthday celebrated

Bishwabarati returnees, top, perform dance and Bodhon Abritti Parishad, bottom, organised recitation of poems to celebrate 143rd birth anniversary of Poet Rabindranath Tagore on May 8. Boishakh Ujapan Parishad organised the event at the DC Hill in



Engrs urged to use skills in dev work

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman urged the engineers to lessen the trend of going abroad and use skills in development works being imbued with patriotism.

It is the engineers who with their skills and merits can play a steering role in constructions and developing infrastructures in the country, he said.

He was addressing as the chief guest a discussion and reception marking the 56th founding anniversary of the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) here.

IEB, Chittagong centre organised the meeting at its auditorium on Friday.

The engineers stressed on decision on the type of the third bridge on the river Karnaphuli after conducting proper model tests to save Chittagong Port and ensure smooth movement of water transports.

Engineer Moktadir Belal, Engineer Ali Ashraf, Engineer Shubhash Chandra Barua, Engineer Manzare Khorshed Alam, Engineer Quazi Yeakub Sirajuddoullah and Engineer JSM Bakhtiar also spoke. IEB central Chairman Engineer AKM Fazlullah presided.

Meet to check copying in exams

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon said that the government was firm in its stand against copying and

cheating in public examinations.

He was addressing a motivational meeting that aimed at a complete check on copying in the examination as the chief guest on Saturday. Chittagong Education Board (CEB) organised the meeting at Nasirabad Govt Women College.

CEB Chairman Prof AJM Shahidullah presided.

Controller of Examinations Prof AYM Obyedul Akber, Additional DIG of Police, Chittagong range AKM Mahfuzul Haq and Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Shafiqul Islam were present at the meeting.

3 ministers seek vote for JOAP panel

Three ministers at a projection meeting in the port city on Saturday urged the lawyers to vote for the candidates of Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP) panel in the Bangladesh Bar Council election scheduled to be held tomorrow.

They called for electing the JAOP candidates to make the Bar Council a corruption-free and accountable organisation.

JAOP, Chittagong organised the meeting at Chittagong Bar auditorium.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed addressed the meeting as chief guest while Communication Minister Nazmul Huda and Post and Tele-communication Minister Aminul Haq spoke as the principal speaker and special guest.

Advocate Md. Kabir Chowdhury presided over. Bangladesh Jatiya Party

Secretary General Advocate Quazi Feroz Rashid, Islamic Lawyers' Council President Barrister Abdur Razzak and candidate from Group C Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmad Mirza also addressed the rally.

Vote for SASP panel: Rokan

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said that in the existing judicial system the judges and lawyers were involved in politics depriving the people of justice.

He was addressing a projection meeting organised by Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP), Chittagong at District Bar Council Auditorium no. 1 on Saturday on the eve of upcoming Bangladesh Bar Council election.

Barrister Rokanuddin called for electing the SASP candidates in the Bar Council election to establish a corruption-free judicial system and rule of law and for unity of lawyers to ensure justice for the common people.

Chittagong District Bar Council President Md. Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury presided over.

General Secretary Manotosh Barua, Bar Council member Advocate Abul Kalam Azad and SASP nominated candidate from Group C Advocate Mohammad Shafiqul Alam also spoke.

CU ELC opens

English Language Club and Information Centre (ELC&IC) of Chittagong University

(CU) was inaugurated on the university campus on Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury inaugurated the centre as chief guest.

Commerce Faculty Dean Prof Dr. Shanti Ranjan Das and Director and CEO Mehrab Masud were special guests at the inaugural ceremony chaired by ELC&IC Chief Executive Md. Faruq Ali Tarafdar.

Training on anti-money laundering

A training on anti-money laundering was organised by the Oriental Bank Limited (OBL) at the Agrabad branch here on Thursday.

The speakers at the training programme highlighted ill-motive behind money laundering and urged bankers to remain more alert to prevent it.

Mofiz Uddin Chowdhury - general manager of Bangladesh Bank, Chittagong, attended the concluding session as chief guest. Md. Noushad Ali Chowdhury of Bangladesh Bank, Chittagong and Md. Imamul Hoque of the Oriental Bank Ltd, were special guests.

Nasiruddin Ahmed, chief manager of OBL Agrabad branch presided.

Ctg Collegiates' get-together

A grand get-together of Chittagong Collegiates a forum of Chittagong



A letter-box with the lid on its opening broken stands in front of Chittagong City Corporation building failing to draw attention of the authority concerned since long.

Collegiate School ex-students - was held at Hailshahar Railway Training Academy here on Friday.

The programmes included meeting recalling memories, cultural functions and sports for children and women.

Scientist Prof Dr. Jamal Nazrul Islam, Col(Retd) Ziauddin Bir Uttam, Abul Hossain, Fazlul Sobhan Chowdhury, Sekander Hossain and AK Shamsuddin took part in the meeting recalling memories of school life among others.

The meeting also decided to hold a two-day reunion of the forum beginning December 24.