

Circular waterway phase two plan waits the nod



A section of the Circular Water Way project.

AVIK SANWAR RAHMAN

The project concept paper (pcp) for the second phase of the circular waterway has been placed at the Planning Commission for inclusion in the Annual Development Program (ADP) after the Ministry for Shipping approved it last Thursday.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) had undertaken the project in a bid to develop a water transport system in and around the city, revive the dead and dying rivers and canals and improve landing facilities. The completion of the second phase is a must to encircle the capital by river ways.

The Dhaka circular waterway project connects the Buriganga, Turag, Balu and Shitalakhya rivers. The first phase covered a 29.5-km waterway from Sadarghat to Asulia on the Buriganga and Turag rivers.

The second phase will include Balu and Sitalakhya from Ashulia Bridge via Tongi to Kachpur covering a 40.5-km river route. The cost of phase two has been estimated at Tk 294 crore according to the pcp. The cost will be managed from government funds (Tk 284.75 crore) and foreign resources (Tk 9.25 crore). The BIWTA is expecting the World Bank (WB), Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other donor agencies to assist in this regard.

The project had been discussed in a 'Good Governance and Development' meeting on March 6 where the BIWTA was instructed to work on the proposal of creating a multi-modal transport system with the Dhaka



A landing station near Gabtoli to facilitate the water transport is almost complete (right).

Urban Transport Coordination Board (DTCB).

Later the BIWTA had a meeting with DTCB on April 24 where DTCB experts suggested that the sites of the landing stations shown in the pcp along with the road map of the city should be superimposed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Under the second phase there will be one river port at Tongi, six major landing stations at Rampura, Trimukh, Ichapur, Fakirhali, Demra and Kachpur and minor landing stations at Harbaid, Beraid, Khordi, Gojaria and Kaitpara, Meradia, Trimohoni, Vatar, Namapara and one between Ashulia and

Tongi for the devotees of the Biswa Jtama.

The BIWTA needs to acquire 35 acres of land for parking yards and bus terminals at landing stations. DTCB also suggested dredging inner canals which are included in the project.

Three canals -- Rampura-Meradia-Trimohoni-Balu, Meradia-Badda-Vatar-Gojaria and Gobindanagar-Baupara-Namapara will be dredged to ensure navigability.

Tk. 125 crore has been estimated for construction and repair of the connecting roads of the 16 landing station.

To relocate the gas pipe line at Aminbazar and Tongi, as dredg-

ing will be done in the area through which it has passed, Tk 9.5 crore has been kept following a suggestion from Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd.

Meantime, the BIWTA has completed the hydrographic survey of the area. According to the survey the depth and width at most points of the 40.5-km river way from Ashulia to Kachpur were not fit for navigation. 30-lakh cubic meter dredging will be required to make those spots eight-foot deep and 120 feet wide.

The Project implementation period is five years (July 2004 to June 2009).

MIRPUR SHER-E-BANGLA NATIONAL STADIUM

New look, latest facilities for cricket

KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

The renovation work of Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur to turn it solely for cricket has begun and the authorities hope to hold international matches there from early next year.

The authorities said the stadium would look similar to the Lords in England. It will be equipped with all modern cricketing facilities and be far more advanced than Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS).

The President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Ali Asghar Lobi said: "This will be the best stadium in the Indian subcontinent in terms of looks and facilities."

He said an Australian specialist Gramme Watson will supervise the work on the stadium.

The decision to shift the cricket venue to Mirpur came after a long-drawn battle between two main sports federations -- football and cricket -- over the possession of the BNS. Finally, cricket gave up its right over and now the Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium has been permanently earmarked for the game.

The last international cricket match at BNS -- the fifth one-day interna-

tional between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe was held on January 31, 2005.

"We are at present preparing the pitch and once it is ready we will remove the existing synthetic track from the ground," said Rafiqul Islam Babu, vice-chairman of the grounds and facilities management committee of the BCB.

He said eight pitches are being prepared -- four for international matches and the rest for domestic cricket.

"We are making these pitches with local soil that has been tested by experts in Australia who confirmed that the quality of our black soil is excellent," said Babu.

A new electronic scoreboard will be installed in this stadium and the floodlights from the BNS will be shifted here.

"We also have a plan to install a large TV screen," said Babu.

He said the press and commentary boxes will have the latest technological facilities while the hospitality boxes and pavilion will be located at the south end of the stadium.

"The consultants are also contemplating on constructing two balconies in keeping with the style at the Lords stadium," said Babu.

Shops, around a hundred, that currently fringe the stadium on the outside would be shifted from their present locations ensuring security to the stadium.

"The shops around the BNS had to be kept shut for security reasons during India's last tour, causing businessmen heavy losses. We would not want a repetition of shut-downs," said Babu adding that the BCB authorities have already requested the National Sports Council (NSC) to relocate these shops and the NSC has already started groundwork on this.

"We want to make use of the whole stadium compound, even the outer circle to facilitate cricket," said Babu.

A museum to preserve the history of Bangladesh cricket will be set up at the stadium.

"A cricket museum is now the demand of time and we have plans for that. The museum will preserve all the possible documents of Bangladesh cricket," said Babu.

Secured car parking, food stalls in the gallery and a bar for corporate guests will also be added to the stadium. The BCB office too, presently housed at the BNS will be shifted to Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla Stadium.

The Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium is being cleaned and renovated to turn to a 'cricket only' stadium. It is planned that the stadium will look similar to the Lords in England.



STAR PHOTO

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
Heart
 National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital
 Burn Unit-8626812-6
- Cancer**
 National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
 Diabetes Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
 Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
 Azimpur Mother & Child Health Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980

- Eye**
 Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
 National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
 Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
 National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
 Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
 Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
 Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
 Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,
 Shamariya Hospital- 9131901
 Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800,

- 9122560-69
 Salimullah Medical Collage Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
 Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60
 Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
 Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
 Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
 Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061,7319022
 Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
 Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
 Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
 Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
 Elephant Road-Friday
 Bishal Center-Friday
 Baitual Mukarram Market-Friday
 Polwell Market-Friday
 BCS Computer City-Friday
 Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
 Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
 Stadium Market-Friday
 Bangabazar Market-Friday
 National Museum-Thursaday
 Ahsan Manzil--Thursaday.
 New Market-Tuesday
 Gausia Market-Tuesday
 Mouchak Market-Sunday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
 Eastern Plaza-Sunday
 Farmview Super Market-Sunday
 Muktiyudha Jadugar-Sunday
 Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
 Shishu Jadugar-Sunday

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
 Navana 9558065
 Salida 9344477, 0171620881
 Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
 Cab One 7113282-3
 Nihon 8624741-2
 Orion 9347277
 Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
 Capital 9352847
- Union** 8130485
 Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
 Cab Ex 9358401
 Cabline 8321162
 JBS Cab 019364575
 Sajan 018126036
 Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611
 Cab One 7113282-3
- Subarna Express** Leaves Dhaka at 4:30 pm
Mahanagar Prabhathi Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3-15 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Parabat Express Leaves Dhaka at 6-40 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 12-45 pm
Upaban Express Leaves Dhaka at 9-45 pm
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Ekata Express Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Upakul Express Leaves Dhaka at 8-00 pm
Agniabeena Express Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

TRAIN TIMING

- Palki** 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGK 8620011
- Reaches Chittagong at 10:35 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 1-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 10-55 pm
 Reaches Chittagong at 6-40 am
 Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
 Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
 Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-15
 Reaches Noakhali at 5-00 am
 Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
Central Public Library- 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
Information Resource Center, The American Center - 8813440-4, 9886395-9
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8850141-2
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412
Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) 9330081-4