



Chittagong Steel Mills: BEPZA Executive Chairman Brig General (Retd) Md Zakir Hossain and Karnaphuli EPZ Project Director Ataul Haq will receive the CMS land at Patenga on April 2.

Plan to develop 100 more industrial plots

BEPZA to receive remaining 148.42 acres of land from Chittagong Steel Mills authorities April 2

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD
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The Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM) authorities will hand over the remaining 148.42 acres of land to the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA) on April 2 for developing 100 more industrial plots under a separate authority of Karnaphuli EPZ, sources said.
The CSM authorities handed over 74 acres, out of the total 222.42 acres of land, to BEPZA in late 2003.
CSM General Manager Anwarul Islam will hand over the land to BEPZA Executive Chairman Brig General (Retd) Md Zakir Hossain and Karnaphuli EPZ Project Director Ataul Haq at Patenga.
The handing over ceremony was scheduled for tomorrow but was postponed due to hartal called by the opposition political parties.

The authorities will float a tender for the work order to develop plots on the land (148.42 acres) next month, sources said.
Meanwhile, the Karnaphuli EPZ authorities started developing 100 industrial plots on over 74 acres of land, sources said.
"The process of allotting these plots is yet to be started as the internal roads need to be developed and utility services have to be ensured first for the industrial units to be set up on the land," said Karnaphuli EPZ Project Director Ataul Haq.
"We hope these plots will be ready for allotment by July," he said while talking to this correspondent on Monday.
He said that the authorities had been getting huge response from intended investors. Setting up of industrial units on all these 200 plots of

both the phases will start within one year, added.
The plots, however, will be developed on the land excluding 12 acres allocated to Rapid Action Battalion, Chittagong (Rab-7), he added.
Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM) Limited, the lone heavy steel industrial unit of the country, was set up on 222.42 acres of land on the bank of the river Karnaphuli in the late 1960s. The plant, installed at a cost of Tk 50 crore, went for commercial production in August, 1967.
But, in the last 32 years till 1998-99, Chittagong Steel Mills incurred a loss of Tk 700 crore when the cost of the assets amounted to Tk 900 crore before it was closed down on July 7, 1999.
The government decided to hand over CSM land to BEPZA for setting up

another EPZ on April 17, 2003.
The decision was made since the land of adjoining Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) became saturated.
A total of 428 industrial plots developed on 453 acres of CEPZ land were allocated and there was no plot for allotment for new investment in this first EPZ of the country.
BEPZA at a board meeting on September 5 last year decided to bring the remaining land of CSM under its control for developing another 100 plots in the second phase, sources said.
The Executive Committee for National Economic Council (Ecneec) at a meeting on January 9 decided to hand over CSM land to BEPZA, sources added.

Develop Ctg to develop Bangladesh

CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed tells *The Daily Star*

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

"The development of Chittagong means the development of Bangladesh and without developing Chittagong, the development of Bangladesh is not possible."
Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed said this in an exclusive interview with the *Daily Star* on Sunday.
He said "Chittagong is the second largest city and it has the country's all-important premier seaport and the city is now known as the commercial capital of the country. Considering all these, I think that without developing Chittagong, the development of Bangladesh is not possible."
The chamber president was critical of and doubtful about the role and sincerity of the successive governments for development of the port city.
"Since independence none of the governments have taken any real initiative for Chittagong. What they gave us so far were hyperbole and 'crocodile tears' only for their own petty interest," Javed said.
"Although, Chittagong has been declared as a 'commercial capital' of the country, it has not yet seen any true move from the successive governments in this regard," he said. "What we need now to make the port city a commercial capital in true terms is some key infrastructures instead of 'mere pledges or hyperbole,' the chamber president said.
Infrastructures like headquarters of an insurance company, bank, export-

import office, World Trade Centre (WTC), four-lane highway, double-line railway between Dhaka and Chittagong, enhancement of tourism, another bridge on the river Karnaphuli, more power plants, five-star hotel and efficiency of Chittagong port are needed to turn Chittagong into a commercial capital, he said.
Referring to the inefficiency and incompetence of Chittagong Port Authority, Javed said a lot of things could be done to turn the port into an international standard.
The CCCI chief, in this regard, suggested formation of a regulatory body, computerisation, increase of ICD (inland container depots), procurement of equipment and gantry cranes, introduction of green channel and reduction of procedural steps.
"A regulatory body, comprising representatives of CCCI, Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association (BSAA) and Clearing and Forwarding Agents Association, is a prerequisite for making Chittagong port an efficient and competent one," he said.
Javed said that the development of Chittagong so far gained was due to the initiatives from the private sectors only. He suggested more access of private sectors to the infrastructural development of the port city.
"Let the private sector do business not the government," he appealed.
The chamber president sees a bright prospect of tourism in Chittagong for its 'beautiful natural



Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed

setting' enriched with zigzag hills, rivers and the sea.
He urged the government to take stern action against the rampant hill cutting. "The unabated hill cutting is destroying the ecological balance and if it continues the port city in future will sink down in the sea."
Javed said the business community and trade bodies can play a vital role for the development of Chittagong and offered his personal and CCCI's cooperation in this regard.
"We are ready to extend our optimum efforts and cooperation to the government to this end," he said.
The chamber president, however, declined to comment on the current political situation saying, "Politics is not our cup of tea and I personally am not interested in it."



Winners of the best pavilion and stall awards pose for photographs with the guests and organisers at the concluding ceremony of the month long Chittagong International Trade Fair on Sunday. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, fourth from left, and State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafarul Islam Chowdhury, second from right, were present as the chief and special guests at the ceremony with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, third from left, in the chair.

theweekthatwas

Minister lauds Ispahani School
The annual sports and cultural competition of Ispahani Public School and College (IPSC), Chittagong was held here on Monday.
State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon in his speech as chief guest lauded the school for its students' outstanding academic performance in secondary and higher secondary examinations. IPSC is one of the best educational institutions in Chittagong and an instance for non-government schools and colleges, he added.
Chittagong Education Board Chairman Shafiqul Islam was the special guest at the function with Principal Hasina Zakaria in the chair.
The function was followed by a cultural function.
OFA executives
A new executive committee of Old Faujan Association (OFA) was formed with Daily Purbokone Editor Taslim Uddin Chowdhury and Dr Mezbah Uddin as president and general secretary respectively for 2005-07 here on Friday.

The committee was formed at its annual general meeting at a local hotel in the city.
OFA, Chittagong is an organisation of ex-students of Faujderhat Cadet College. Dr Mahtab Uddin and Dr Sarwar

Ahmed were elected vice presidents. Outgoing general secretary Dr Sarwar Ahmed presented the annual report and M Saiful Islam gave the address of welcome in the AGM.
Safe meet ends
A two-day meeting of the Regional Markets Committee (RMC) of the South Asian Federation of Exchanges (Safe)

ended at Chittagong Stock Exchange here on Saturday.
Representatives from member countries including, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Mauritius, Nepal and Pakistan, took part in the discussion.
The meeting discussed some principal issues including, difficulties in listing cross-border regulations, criteria for cross-border listing and guidelines for harmonisation.
Traders submit memo to CDA chairman
The businessmen of Chawk View Super Market protested raising of the third and fourth floors of the market without Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) approval.
They submitted a memorandum to the CDA chairman and other concerned authorities demanding measures to stop raising of the building. They also observed a two-hour token shutdown at the market on Sunday.
The businessmen held the protest as part of the programmes announced at an emergency general meeting of

Chawk View Super Market Baboshayee (traders) Samity on Friday. Chaired by Samity President Shawkat Ullah Chowdhury the meeting was also addressed by Mozaffar Ali Chowdhury, Rezaul Karim, Mohammad Yusuf, Abdul Jabbar, Sagar Kumar Das and Jasimuddin Siddique.
"Work unitedly for a prosperous nation"
The Newspaper Employees' Welfare Society (NEWS) organised a discussion at its office at Nawab Sirajuddoula Road in the city on Sunday in observance of the Independence Day.
The NEWS organised the meeting with its president Abdul Shukkur in the chair. Speakers urged the people to work together with the spirit of the War of Liberation for building a prosperous nation.
NEWS General Secretary Jasim Uddin, Organising Secretary Shahidullah Khan, Md. Saleq and Md. Nazrul Islam also spoke.

Unilever Independence Day Golf
Lt Col Rezanur Rahman Khan lifted the title of third Unilever Independence Day Golf Tournament held on Friday at the Bhatiyar Golf and Country Club (BGCC).
BGCC Senior Vice President and GOC of 24 Infantry Major General Iqbal Karim Bhuiyan gave away the prizes among the winners in the evening.
Earlier in morning, BGCC Vice-President and Commandant of Bangladesh Military Academy Brigadier General Abu Belal Md Shafiqul Haq inaugurated the tournament participated by 113 players including nine female golfers.
Other winners were: Shamsul Huda (runners-up), RT Paresh (best gross), M Simojima (senior winner), Shamim Integab (ladies winner), Jong Oh Bay (ladies runners-up), Liaqat Ali Chowdhury (best front nine), Firoze Ahmed (best back nine), Major (Retd) Md Ahsanuzzaman (nine hole winner), Sifat Yousuf (ladies longest drive), Jong Be (men's longest drive) and AQI

Chowdhury (nearest to pin).
The prize giving ceremony was followed by a cultural function and raffle draw. Artists Samina Nabi and Nadia Sultana rendered songs.
Cover of "Muldhara" unveiled
Cover of a newly published quarterly titled "Muldhara" was unveiled at a simple ceremony at the Swadhinatar Boi Mela ground at Chittagong Academy on Saturday.
Professor Dr. Moniruzzaman unveiled the cover of the 64-page magazine published with a motto to practise knowledge and intellectualism.
Poet Rashed Rouf, Poet Balal Ahmed, Muldhara Editor Abdul Hai Al Hadi, Associate Editor Sarwar Kamal were present.



Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad forms a human chain on the Chittagong court building premises on Sunday expressing concern over court verdict against seven editors and journalists.

STAR PHOTO