

JBIC proposes Tk 2516.30 cr projects for development of Chittagong

ABDULLAH - AL MAHMUD
 Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) proposed seven projects of Tk 2516.30 crore for developing roads and bridges, port and power sectors in Chittagong under a multi-sector infrastructure development programme.

Development in Chittagong" to be implemented with the financial assistance of Japanese government, sources said.
 Preparation is nearing completion to submit the draft final report of the pilot study in January and the final report in February to JBIC and the Bangladesh government, they said.
 The study began in September after an agreement signed between JBIC and the Economic Relations Department on August 31.
 JBIC took the study since Chittagong city and its surrounding areas with the largest sea-

port, an accumulation of industrial units and export processing zone are one of the most important areas for private sector development in Bangladesh. But, various infrastructure bottlenecks were preventing the smooth business activities here, said the sources.
 JBIC with the help of Chittagong Development Authority conducted the study on roads, bridges, port, water supply, power, telecommunication and environment as the key sectors for infrastructure development in Chittagong, said CDA Chairman

Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin.
 The JBIC interim report includes three projects for developing roads and bridges involving Tk 1340 crore, two for developing Chittagong port facilities involving Tk 548.30 crore and two for developing power sector in Chittagong at a cost of Tk 628 crore, he said.
 The report proposed for construction of 10.75km and expansion of 1.8km of road along the river Karnaphuli stretching from Strand Road to Kalurghat Bridge under "New Karnaphuli Riverside Road and Flood

Protection Construction Project" worth Tk 490 crore.
 It also proposed a 13.7 km four-lane road stretching from Dhaka Trank Road to Kalurghat bypassing the city in the south, construction of 6.1 km related roads and the 4th bridge on the river Karnaphuli at an estimated cost of Tk 620 crore.
 The report also proposed construction of 12.5km coastal road from Patenga to Port Connecting Road and coastal embankment at a cost of Tk 230 crore.
 The report proposed construction of an inland waterway

container port with a space for 73,000 Twenty Equivalent Units (TEU) of containers over ten hectares of land on the other bank of the Karnaphuli to the opposite of Chittagong Port Jetty No. 7 at a cost of Tk 490 crore.
 Construction of Chaktai Waterway Container Terminal with an annual space for 72,000 TEU containers on 5.4 hectares of land at Chaktai near Shah Amanat Bridge at a cost of Tk 58.3 crore was also proposed for developing the port sector.
 The report proposes a Tk 560 crore project for installa-

tion of new power sub-stations and distribution lines and renovation of old power sub-stations and distribution lines under Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project Phase-IV.
 It also proposed construction of one 150 Mega Watt Gas turbine and one 150 MW steam turbine plant at Shikabaha side by side with rehabilitation and extension of SCADA at SCADA Control Centre (SCC) at Khulshi at a cost of Tk 68 crore to develop the power sector in the port city, sources said.

During the study the JBIC team held discussion with the representatives of Chittagong Port, Power Development Board, Chittagong City Corporation, Bakharabad Gas System Limited, Chittagong Export Processing Zone, Telephone and Telegraph (T&T) Chittagong Wasa, Bangladesh Railway, Roads and Highway and Department of Environment, they said.

School enrolment an uphill challenge

Anxious parents and guardians are now in a frenzied race to get their wards admitted to reputed schools

DWAIPAYAN BARUA
 The anxious parents and guardians are now in a frenzied race to get their wards admitted to reputed schools in the commercial capital with the beginning of admission process ahead of the new academic year.
 Some 25,000 children get enrolled in the city schools every year and most of them compete for 15 schools providing with quality education.
 There are around 139 government and non-government schools, excluding 50 English medium and kindergarten schools, in the port city.
 Of them, a few reputed schools like Ispahani Public School and College, Bawoa (Bangladesh Women Association) School and College, Saint Mary's School,

Angkur and Silver Bells, accommodate about 600 children in KG-One or preparatory classes every year.
 Besides, Cantonment Public School and College enrol 70 kids for class four a year.
 As such, there is always a mad rush of the guardians for these schools, particularly for Ispahani Public and Colleges and Bawoa School that offer education up to Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) from the preparatory classes.
 Some 2000 kids vied for only 100 seats (100 for five seats) in the admission test for the KG-One class at Ispahani Public School held on December 26 at two centres.
 There are only nine government schools - Collegiate School, Dr Khastagir

Government Girls High School, Chittagong Government School, Government Muslim High School, Nasirabad Govt Boys School, Nasirabad Govt Girls High School, Bakalia Govt Laboratory High School, Government Mohsin High School and Government City Girls High School, for enrolling some 2000 students a year.
 Not a single school was added to the list of government school for the last 15 years.
 With the beginning of admission process, the schools, mentioned above, face a tremendous rush of the guardians along with their kids in front of the institutions every day.
 Over 6,000 admission forms were sold until December 24 for some 2,000 seats at the government high schools in the city, sources at the District Education

Office said.
 Until Saturday, 1000 admission forms were sold for 120 seats for class five and 1200 for 240 seats for class six at Chittagong Collegiate School, 2000 forms for 230 seats for class six at Khastagir School and 700 forms for 120 seats for class five and 900 forms for 240 seats for class six at Government Muslim High School.
 "The number of admission seekers will increase by several times by the time of collecting forms expires on December 27," said Ahmad Safa, headmaster of Muslim High School.
 Mohammad Aziz Uddin, headmaster of Chittagong Collegiate School, said the crisis in admission aggravated as no government high school

was set up in the city for years when the number of admission seekers has increased by several times.
 Anup Mutsuddy, a guardian of an admission seeker at Chittagong Collegiate School, said the admission tests will be held at all city schools the same day leaving no scope for one to appear in the test at more than one school.
 Smriti Biswas along with other guardians seen waiting on the school (Collegiate) premises for her son, who was studying in the teachers' quarters ahead of admission test at the school.
 She said some senior teachers of the school give coaching to some 30 students each ahead of the admission test charging Tk 2000 to Tk 5000 per head.



The kids don't care about admission test. Rather, they are busy playing during their admission test for KG-1 at Ispahani Public School and College on Monday.

the week that was

Call for objective reporting
 Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury on Wednesday emphasised the need for informative and objective reporting on Chittagong for its development and progress.

He was speaking at a discussion organised by The Suprabhat Bangladesh, a local daily, at Chittagong Press Club.
 "Chittagong is giving eighty per cent of revenue of national budget yet the government appears indifferent to the development of the district," he said.
 Former lawmaker Abul Kashem

Master, Jamal Khan ward commissioner MA Naser, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) General Secretary Shahid Ul Alam, Dr Fayed Ahmed, dramatist Mahub Hasan, Jamal Khan ward Awami League President Abul Hashem Chowdhury, Prof Syeda Nahida Parvin, engineer Protosh Nandi, Suprabhat Bangladesh publisher Rusko Mahmud, Assistant

Editor Subhas Dey and chief reporter M Nasirul Haque.
South Raozan UZ demanded
 South Raozan Upazila Development Implementation Committee

demanding of the government to announce the South Raozan as a separate upazila.
 The committee leaders submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister in this regard through the Deputy Commissioner (DC) on Wednesday.
 Convenor Mohammed Khorshad Alam, Joint Jovnenor Jahangir Tutul, leaders Kamrul Islam Babu, SM Jafar Ullah, Jahedul Alam, Mohiuddin Emon and Notan Ghosh were present during the submission of the memorandum.

Sabuj Samaj was launched at Chittagong University (CU) on Tuesday with a view to creating awareness about harm of cigarettes.
 Professor Dr ANM Muqtadir was made the chief advisor of the 11-member committee while Amzad Hossain Masud and Ishraque Hossain were elected president and general secretary.
 As part of its anti-smoking campaign the organisation distributed a calendar at the launching function.

Abdul Muhit said decentralisation of power is a must to stop corruption in the country.
 He was addressing a meeting with economists, academicians and other professionals at the auditorium of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on Wednesday.
 Muhit underscored the need for empowerment of zila, upazila and city corporations for economic prosperity.
 "Economic progress is not possible without proper utilisation of country's resources," he added.
 City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury presided over the meeting. Prof Dr Jyoti Prokash Dutta, General Secretary of Bangladesh Economic Association, Chittagong chapter Khorshedul Alam Quaderi,

Prof MA Hossain, MA Wadud Mukul, Mansur MY Chowdhury and Shawkatul Anwar Khan also spoke.
Urban Society AGM held
 The 88th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Chittagong Urban Cooperative Society Limited was held at Chittagong Zila Parishad auditorium on Friday.
 Joint Registrar of Chittagong Divisional Cooperative Office Manzurul Alam was present as chief guest in the meeting. Organisation President Dulal Kanti Mazumdar chaired it.
 Former President Binod Bihari Chowdhury, news editor of Daily



Members of Scouts take part in three-day hiking at Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary on Tuesday.

Hiking to create awareness about conserving forests

A three-day hiking of scouts with a view to creating awareness among the people about conserving the reserved forests concluded at Teknaf Game Reserve forest on Thursday.
 Bangladesh Scouts and Nishorgo, a protected area management project of forest department, with the financial assistance from USAID, jointly organised the hiking.
 A total of 75 scouts along with 50 local kids joined the hiking from Chunati Wildlife Sanctuary, which covers an area of 7,800 hectare of land at Banskhal and Lohagara upazila and Chakaria upazila.
 Earlier, a discussion meeting was also held on Tuesday at the forest range office at Chunati Sanctuary where the speakers expressed grave concern at the fast depletion of reserved forests.
 "More than 50 percent of forests cover in Bangladesh has disappeared in the last 30 years and today, the forests in sanctuaries and national parks, collectively known as 'Protected Areas', are threatened," speakers said.
 Citing comparative data, they said Bangladesh has now the smallest amount of 'Protected Areas' for per person of any country in the world.
 Conservator of Forest, Chittagong Circle Abdul Mutaleb presided over the meeting while Secretary of National Curriculum and Textbook Board Atiar Rahman, also National Commissioner (Rules and Growth) of Bangladesh Scouts, was present as the chief guest.

Anti-smoking body launched

An anti-smoking organisation named

Decentralise power to stop corruption

Former Finance Minister Abul Mal

Rajib 'Gallant Son of Chittagong'



Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury hands over a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to Shimul Barua, father of slain constable Rajib Barua, at a public meeting

City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at a public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on Friday termed slain police constable Rajib Barua 'Gallant Son of Chittagong.'
 Rajib was killed in the November 29 suicide bomb attack on the Chittagong Court Building premises.
 Jangi O Santraas Pratirodh Committee, Chittagong, formed recently with members of progressive political parties and professionals, organised the rally. Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also convenor of the committee, presided.
 He handed over a cheque for Tk1 lakh to Shimul Barua, father of Rajib Barua.
 "Rajib has set an example sacrificing his life to protect the lives of judges, lawyers, litigants and common people on November 29 and its our obligation now to give him due honour," the mayor told the rally.
 Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Moinuddin Ahmad Khan Badal, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) District President Mrinal Chowdhury, City Awami League President MA Mannan, South District AL President Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, City Gono Forum President M Kafil Uddin and Workers Party Secretary Advocate Abu Hanif also addressed the rally.