

Dredging, excavation of 30 Ctg canals to end in Feb

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Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has planned to complete the dredging and the excavation work by early February to widen around 30 canals to rid the city of waterlogging that causes immense suffering to the city dwellers and loss of properties frequently.

The CCC is using 10 sophisticated dredging machines (excavators) for faster completion of the work to reduce the project cost significantly, sources said.

The city corporation took the project worth Tk 4 crore in December 2007 with the use of dredging machines to bring down the project cost almost to the half, CCC sources said.

Dredging and excavation of Mohesh Khal near Police Line at Halishahar, Rampur Khal at Rampur, Bahar Khal at Saraipara, Shital Jharna at Panchlaish, Bamunshahi Khal at Chandgaon, Gohona Chhara at Halishahar, Birza Khal at West Syed Shah Road and different points of Chaktai Khal are almost completed while the work at other canals are expected to be done by the first week of February, the sources added.

"We are dredging the canals



Dredging of Chaktai canal is going on in full swing at Bakalia in the port city.

up to 12 to 15 feet deep and 20 to 30 feet wide on an average," said Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Abu Saleh of CCC Division 1.

He said they fear a bit problem in a few areas where the canals do not have sufficient passage to move the excavators

that require some 10ft to 12ft to reach the canals.

The CCC sources said the banks of the canals at many points are still occupied illegally that need immediate eviction while some have very narrow banks requiring acquisition of land for expansion for

maintenance regularly. To reap the benefit of the ongoing work, the CCC officials said construction of walkways along the banks is needed to protect the canals from the encroachers and protection wall to save them from getting silted up or filled up.

CCC acting Chief Engineer Nizamuddin Chowdhury said

sluice gates and tidal regulators are also needed at the canal mouth to stop entry of tidal water that inundate many city areas frequently. He said they briefed LGRD Adviser Md Anwarul Iqbal on

the matters when he visited the junction of the Mohesh Khal and the Karnaphuli river in the Saltgola area on Saturday.

He said the adviser has asked them for preparing a project proposal as soon as possible and assured them of the government support in this regard.

There are 144 canals and 418 drains to carry away rainwater and sewage to the river Karnaphuli and the bay.

The drains and canals become silted up or filled up with mud for lack of proper and regular maintenance, sources said. Besides, the encroachers contribute a lot to fill up the drains and canals, they added.

The canals and drains can't cope with the heavy flow of rainwater during heavy rainfall, causing inundation, they said.

CCC engineers and officials blamed the indiscriminate dumping of garbage in the drains and water bodies for aggravating the situation.

They emphasised the need to stop dumping waste into water bodies and raising awareness among the people in this regard to help maintain normal flow of water through the canals and drains.

Policy for coastal fishermen underscored

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Experts said formulation of a policy is needed for 25 lakh coastal fishermen as they contribute to around 90 per cent of the total catch.

Adequate guidelines for fishing crafts and fishing methods are also required to ensure their safety during the fishing in the bay, they said.

At the same time the policy should be followed strictly to improve their livelihood, the experts added.

The fishermen use over 35,000 fishing crafts, including around 18,000 non-mechanised boats in the fishing, sources said, adding that in absence of rules and regulations for manufacturing, maintenance and repair the fishing crafts put their lives at risk.

A report prepared by Engineer and Surveyor Sirajul Islam of the Mercantile Marine Department said of the fishing crafts, some 7000 trawlers have registration while only some 1500 boats turn up for annual survey.

Besides, lack of awareness and absence of a modern system of reporting and analysis of incidents at sea have raised the risk of serious accidents for fishermen and fishing crafts, sources said.

Fisheries Secretary Syed Ataur Rahman said at a workshop titled "Safety at Sea for Small-scale Fisheries" in the

port city on Monday very little efforts have been taken for improving the livelihood of the poor fishing community so far. In addition, no mechanism is there to warn the fishermen against danger taking lives frequently, he said.

He also underscored the need for framing guidelines for the development of the potential sector.

He asked Md Sanaulah, director (Marine) of Department of Fisheries (DoF), for taking an initiative to facilitate the coastal fishing community to form organisations or associations to help themselves.

While talking to the Daily Star, DoF Director General Makkamel Hossain said the DoF carried out some empowerment of coastal fishing community (ECFC) programmes in the past in this regard. He said but no follow-up project or programme has been taken since long to put the outcome and achievement of the ECFC in use.

He said besides, no survey has been conducted on 1.40 lakh square km areas identified as the "Exclusive Economic Zone" in the Bay of Bengal for long.

Anarkali Jaladash, leader of a coastal fishing community organisation, said for lack of mechanism the fishermen can't predict the coming danger and fell victim to natural calamities very often.

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BGMEA leaders seek cop help to maintain stability

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) leaders at a view exchange meeting sought cooperation of the law enforcement agencies to maintain stability in the garments sector in Chittagong region.

The meeting was held with Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Akbar Ali in the chair at his office on Thursday.

Akbar assured the business leaders of all out cooperation in preventing any unwanted situation in the sector.

He stressed the need for building

a friendly relation between the law enforcement agencies and readymade garment factory owners in this regard.

BGMEA First Vice President MA Salam, former first vice president Ershad Ullah, SM Abu Tayeb, Shahabuddin Chowdhury and Moin Uddin Ahmed also spoke at the meeting.

BGMEA directors Mohammad Ferdous, Abdul Mannan Rana, Ahsanul Hoque Shamim, MA Malek and Nasiruddin Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

Recitation competition held

Eminent poet Asad Chowdhury said

recitation is an effective media to help reach the literature to the mass people.

He was addressing as the chief guest the prize giving ceremony of a recitation competition titled 'Poem of Chittagong' at the seminar hall of Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on Friday.

Kriron, a recitation organisation, arranged the programme.

Referring to the roles of several scholars from Chittagong, Asad Chowdhury said Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad contributed a lot to the Bengali language and literature while Dr Enamul Hoque and Dr Ahmad Sharif enriched it.

He said since recitation is related with different forms of art and culture one can achieve other form of art through practising recitation prop-

erly.

Prof Mujib Rahman and artist Arun Bhadra were the special guests at the ceremony with recitation trainer of the Academy Mostak Khandaker in the chair.

Mosatafa Khandaker, Abir Barua, Sayema Khanam Siddika, Jhantu Kanti Chowdhury, Shahidul Islam, Nipun Barua and Sakina Chowdhury performed recitation at the function.

'Declare Ctg as friendly city for people with disability'

Speakers at seminar on Thursday urged the authorities concerned to declare Chittagong as a friendly city for the people with disability.

Lohagar Disabled Welfare Association organised the seminar titled 'Role of Civil Society in Rehabilitating the Disabled' Zila Parishad auditorium in the port city.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Acting Mayor M Manjur Alam was the chief guest at the seminar with association President Mahfujur Rahman in the chair.

Bengali daily Purbokone Managing Editor Jasim Uddin Chowdhury inaugurated the seminar. Manjur said CCC will work for the welfare of the people with disability.

He urged the representatives of the organisations working in this field to place specific proposals in this regard.

Association adviser and former president of Chittagong Press Club Abu Sufian, USTC Pro-Vice Chancellor Dr Md Jafar Alam, Governor of Lions Club B-315 Kabir Uddin Bhuiyan, Jesmin Sultana Paru and Advocate Khademul Islam Chowdhury also spoke at the seminar.

Workshop for jurnos on role of women held

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil said education can help change the feudal male-dominated values and norms that still prevail in our society.

He said it is essential to change the old values and outlooks with the

change of social system.

He was addressing as the chief guest the certificate giving ceremony of a three-day reporting workshop for journalists on 'Role of Women in Development of the Country' on Thursday.

Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) organised the workshop at Chittagong Press Club seminar hall.

Directors of PIB and teachers of Chittagong University (CU) Communication and Journalism Department conducted the workshop on different topics.

The topics included values of news, sources of news, feature writing, editing, ethics of journalism, language of mass media, methods of interview, oppression of women and children and dowry, removal of discrimination to women, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. Twenty-five journalists working in

different print and electronic media participated in the workshop.

Call to stop waterlogging

Speakers underscored the need for taking a coordinated step to stop waterlogging in the port city and urged the government to check irregularities in the renovation of Chaktai canal.

They were speaking at a view exchange meeting organised by Chaktai Khal Khanan Sangram Committee chaired by committee chairman M Kafil Uddin.

Sangram Committee General Secretary Shahriar Khaled presented a keynote paper at the meeting.

The speakers blamed the unplanned management of

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for increasing the problem of waterlogging.

They said CCC is acquiring the land on both sides of the canal in an unplanned way.

They urged the government to investigate the irregularities in renovation and concrete soling work of Chaktai Khal.

They also sought the interference of the LGRD and cooperatives adviser to help city dwellers get rid of the problem.

Bodhan observes 21st founding anniversary

Bodhan Abity Parishad, a recitation organisation, observed its 21st founding anniversary through a

daylong programme on Friday amid enthusiasm.

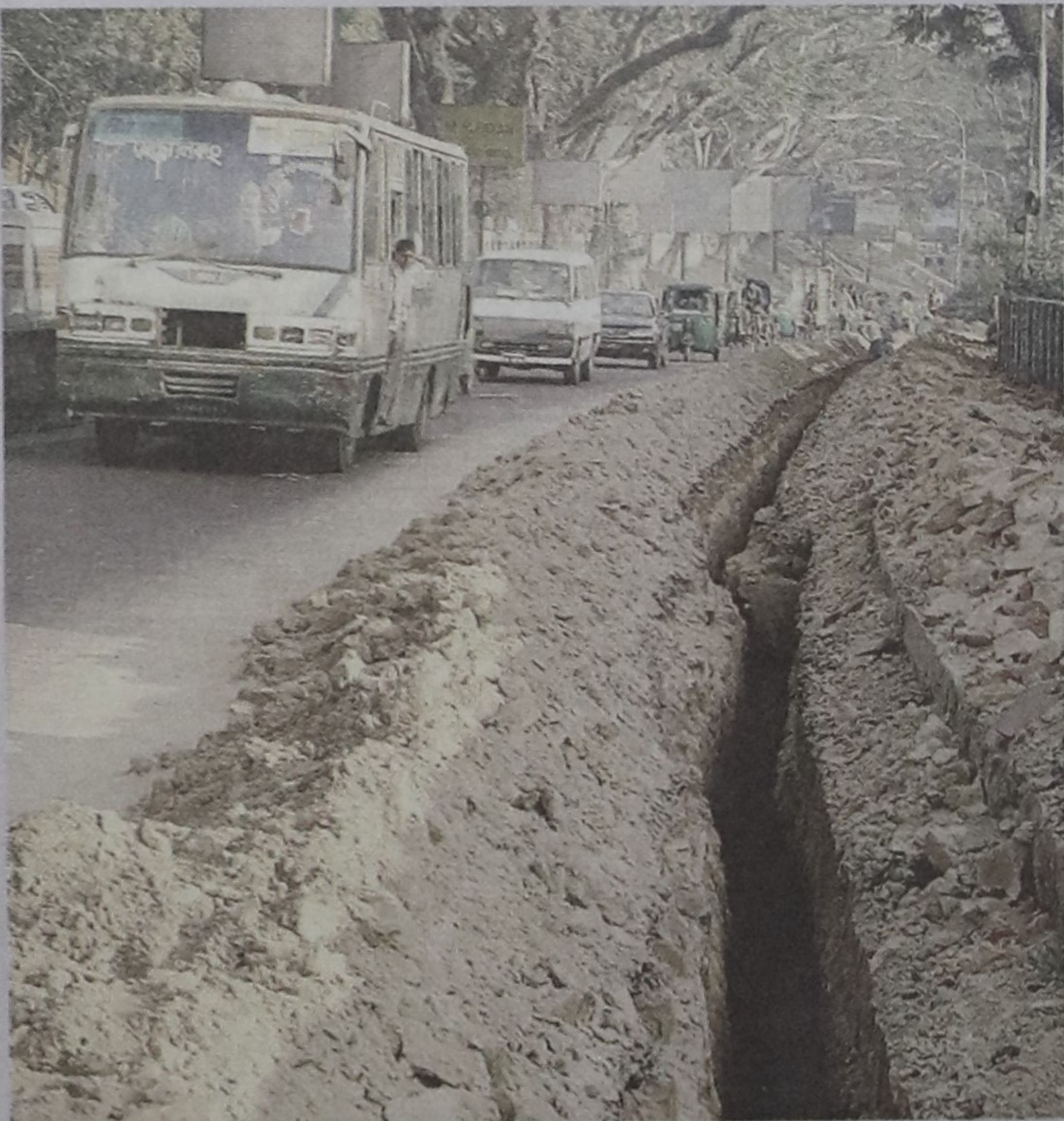
Editor of local Bengali daily Dainik Azadi MA Malek inaugurated the programme as the chief guest at Engineer Abdul Khalek auditorium at Chittagong Press Club.

He said celebration of 21 years of a recitation organisation will surely add a new dimension to the development of this field.

He said a recitation artiste can spread the appeal of poems to inspire its readers.

Trainer Secretary of Bangladesh Recitation Coordination Parishad Rabi Shankar Maitra was the guest artiste at the ceremony while Bodhan General Secretary Sohel Anwar moderated the programme.

Later members of Bodhan performed chorus recitation titled 'Kabitai Kotha Koi'.



Digging of city roads is there once again to cause public nuisance. A private telephone company is carrying out the digging work to expand its cable lines when the dug-out earth is lying in heaps occupying a major portion of a road. The on-going digging hinders smooth movement of vehicles and pedestrians in the Pologround area in the city.



Laldighi Park was closed the very next day after its formal inauguration on January 18, ten years after the completion of its development work involving Tk 2.5 crore. The Chittagong City Corporation authorities show non-printing of entry tickets as the reason for not opening the park to the public, disappointing a good number of visitors.