

Tk 10cr project to develop DC Hill Park with added facilities

Development Project Plan will be submitted to ministry concerned within a day or two

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken a project to develop DC Hill Park with added facilities on an increased area, much to the elation of those longing for open air or holding programmes on different occasions.

CDA will develop the park under a beautification and development project with an approximate budget of Tk 10 crore to be implemented within a year.

CDA has also prepared a Development Project Plan (DPP) in this regard.

DC Hill Park is the lone open space-cum-park for taking stroll or holding programmes marking different festivals or national days in the city.

Hundreds of people visit the park every day.

But, the park can hardly make room for the huge crowd and audiences during the national days like Ekushey February, Pahela Baishakh, Independence Day, Victory Day or different religious festivals, they said.

Despite having an area of 5.2 acres of land, the park is facing space shortage since a huge valley on the eastern side of the DC Hill has been left detached and unused.

A road runs through the park to two hilltop bungalows of deputy commissioner and divisional commissioner.

A significant portion of the open space beside the road could not be developed for the visitors in consideration of the privacy and security of the bungalows of the two high government officials, said the sources at CDA.

As such, under the beautifi-

cation and development project CDA plans to construct a tunnel connecting the valley with the park on the north.

An open air theatre would be developed on the valley with an entry on the east, they said.

After completion of the project the park along with the open air theatre would be able to accommodate at least two programmes at a time.

Under the project the road leading to the deputy commissioner and divisional commissioner's bungalows would have a separate entry point on the south of the hill (to the west of divisional forest office) to bypass the park.

The park-end of the road would be closed in the west to ensure security and privacy of the residents of the bungalows and enable the park have more space as well.

The recovered space would

help CDA develop additional rows for sitting arrangements on a few more slabs and enable the park hold more audiences during the programmes, said Maharina Jafrin, a senior CDA architect.

She said they will also widen the roads and sidewalks surrounding the park on three sides -- south, west and north -- with some parking facilities outside the park.

While talking to this correspondent on Monday CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin said the project in consideration of the huge significance of the park that serves as a lone open space for holding any function or programme on the occasion of any religious or national festival.

He said a small space on the southwest corner of the park, just opposite to the Buddhist



Temple, would be left open for the Buddhist people to release "Fanush" (flying candles) during their festivals.

He said after taking initiative following suggestions and guidelines from the newly elected Awami League lawmaker

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain CDA has prepared the DPP, which would be submitted to the ministry within a day or two.

theweekthatwas



Industry Minister Dilip Barua and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury distribute Buddha statues among the Buddhist monks from different monasteries of Chittagong at a ceremony at Pologround on Friday. Dr Boncot Sithipol, a devotee from Thailand, donated 57 Buddha Statues for different monasteries.

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Shila Momen, principal of Fulki, speaks at a meeting marking the 2nd death anniversary of cultural personality and eminent journalist Waheedul Haque at Fulki conference room on Friday.

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'Freedom of thought a must for democracy'

Industry Minister Dilip Barua said freedom of thought imbued with the spirit of War of Liberation is a must to drive the nation towards democracy.

Barua said it is impossible to build a prosperous nation without scope for freedom of thought since democracy as well as the accountability depends on it.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of Freedom Fighter AK Fazlul Haque Memorial Children Gold Medal Painting Competition at city's DC Hill Park on Friday.

OF Memorial Foundation organised the competition in cooperation with the Ekattorer Ghatik Dalal Nirmul Committee, Chittagong chapter for the school children where over 400 school students participated in two groups.

Dhaka University Fine Arts Faculty Dean and eminent Cartoonist Mohammad Rafiqun Nabi was the key speaker at the inaugural ceremony presided over by the Competition Committee Chairman Prof Dr Anupam Sen.

Prof Muntasir Mamun, Cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya, Freedom Fighter Sheikh Ali Aman, Ispahani School and Collage Principal Hasina Zakaria and Sunshine Grammar School and Collage Principal Safia Gazi Rahman spoke at the ceremony.

Later, the guests handed over prizes among the winners of the painting competition. The function was followed by dance, drama, recitation and music sessions.

Web portal launched

A web portal -- banglarestorea.com -- was launched to provide proper information regarding restaurants and tourism across the globe for the visitors.

Organisers of the banglarestorea.com disclosed it at a press conference at a hotel in the port city on Sunday.

Chief Executives Captain (Retd) Mahmood Chowdhury and Nooruddin

Ibne Rafique spoke at the press conference and briefed about their objectives and activities.

They said the people are to stay outside the home for different purposes while the tourists get worried about the information regarding a place, restaurants, food quality, parking facilities, online booking, food menu and cost at a new place.

"We are determined to provide all the useful information through our website to help them enjoy a tense-free travel outside home," they said.

The organisation will promote Bangladeshi-owned restaurants and traditional Bangladeshi foods across the world while a number of restaurants from the UK, US, Canada and Thailand have already included as its partners with attractive discounts to its members, they said.

The organisation offers three types of membership cards -- economy, business and royal, for discount at some specific restaurants in the country and abroad.

WTC executives

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President MA Latif was made chairman of new committee of the World Trade Centre (WTC).

The CCCI Senior Vice President MA Salam and SM Shafiqul Haque were made

co-chairmen.

The committee board of advisers included former president of the CCCI Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Engineer Ali Ahmed, former director and local Daily Azadi Editor MA Malek, Greater Chittagong Development Movement Committee Chairman and local Daily Purbokone Editor Taslim Uddin Chowdhury and former CCCI Director Nader Khan.

The members are CCCI directors Syed Ahsanul Haque, Nasir Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, SM Abu Toyub, AKM Akter Hossain, Wasir Rahman Chowdhury and Mohammad Shobeb Riad.

The CCCI is constructing the WTC and Concord Engineers and Construction Limited was entrusted for the work.

Workshop on solid waste management

A day-long workshop on "Municipal solid waste management" was held at seminar room of Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong Centre on Saturday.

IEB, Chittagong Centre and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) jointly organised the workshop in cooperation with Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (Kuet) financed by the

European Commission.

Kuet Civil Engineering Faculty Dean Prof Dr M Alamgir was the key-note speaker at the workshop while KMM Hasan, G Haedrich and Prof Dr E Kraft of German University spoke at the workshop.

Dr Alamgir in his speech briefed about different aspects of solid waste management.

He said various social and environmental problems are being created by the municipal solid waste and efficient handling of the problem is needed to solve it.

The IEB Vice Chairman Manzare Khorshed Alam presided over the workshop while high officials of the CCC, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong Wasa, Chittagong Port Authority, Chittagong Export Processing Zone and Kamaphuli Export Processing Zone attended the workshop.

Youth-friendly healthcare emphasised

Speakers at a workshop on Sunday emphasised the need for youth-friendly family, society and educational institutions along with the youth-friendly healthcare for prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Terming Bangladesh as a risky zone for the HIV/AIDS, they called upon all to come forward to fight the fatal diseases.

They were addressing an advocacy workshop on "Youth-friendly Healthcare" organised by Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-government organisation, at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

CMCH Director Brigadier AKM Fariduzzaman presided over the workshop while National AIDS/STD Project Line Director Dr Eshak Khan, Chittagong Divisional Health Director Dr Mohammad Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, Chittagong Medical College Principal Prof Gofranul Haque, "Youth-friendly Healthcare" Project National Adviser Dr AKM Shamsuddin, Chittagong District Civil Surgeon Dr Jalal Ahmed and AIDS/STD Project Deputy Programme Manager Dr Hasan Mahmud attended it.

No move yet to reopen Rangamati Textile Mill

Hundreds of workers live in pitiable condition, government is being deprived of revenue of Tk 4 lakh a month

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rangamati Textile Mill (RTM), the lone industry in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), is closed for several months, leaving hundreds of workers unemployed and causing hardship for them.

The government is being deprived of revenues to the tune of Tk 4 lakh a month while hundreds of workers are living in a pitiable state losing their jobs. They are eagerly waiting for the mill to reopen.

The mill, when was in operation, fetched profit of around Tk 25 to Tk 40 lakh on an average a month and the government used to receive 13 per cent of revenues of the total production, sources said.

Some jobless workers on condition of anonymity said manager, technical, used to purchase low quality raw materials and fuel and this attributed a lot to the low production at the mill.

They said most of the workers had gradually lost interest in their work and often remained absent as the authorities deprived them of their dues when the mill was in operation.

Md Zahurul Alam, manager, technical, refuting the allegations said production was hampered as the workers often sat idle.

Two kinds of threads -- rayon and cotton -- were produced in the mill. About 65,000 to 70,000 kilograms of threads worth about Tk 25 lakh were produced a month in the mill when it was in operation, official sources said.

They said monthly salary of 400 daily-basis workers was about Tk 10

lakh whereas it was Tk 30 lakh for 600 permanent workers and officials. The permanent workers who went on self-retirement under a 'golden handshake' programme are yet to get their gratuity and provident funds from the government.

Established on 26 acres of land at Ghagra Bazar of Ghagra Union under Kauchali upazila in the district back in 1977, the mill went into production in 1983 under the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) that ran until 1996. Later, the mill ran with "No loss no profit" system by the private firm 'Sonali Traders' of Narayanganj on partnership basis from 1997. The tenure of the contract has expired on June 16 in 2008.

Since then the mill remained closed as no one has shown interest in investment in the mill as of today although the authorities have called tender for several times, RTM sources said.

Zahurul said the mill can't be given to private sector due to some complicated issues, including the land one. He said no one can buy land in the hill tracts as per the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Peace Agreement. If anyone wants to buy the mill needs a certificate from circle chief as a permanent resident of the CHT, Zahurul said, adding that the price of the mill is about Tk 15 crore.

State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukder said he has already discussed the matter with the industry minister on necessary measures to reopen the mill.



Rangamati Textile Mill

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Children draw pictures at a competition titled 'Freedom Fighter Fazlul Hoque Shishu Kishore Gold Medal Drawing Competition' on the DC Hill premises on Friday.

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