

## New rules for construction of slipway, dockyard, dry dock, jetty soon

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) will introduce new rules soon for construction of slipway, dockyard, dry docks and jetties without hampering flow of the river Karnaphuli.

The rules have already been finalised at a meeting of representatives from CPA, Bangladesh Navy, coastguards and other stakeholders like Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and its marketing companies Padma, Meghna and Jamuna at the shipping ministry on March 9, said CPA sources.

The new rules would allow construction of new slipways and dockyards that remained suspended since October last year and help growth of thriving shipbuilding industry, they said.

As per the new rules construction of slipways, dockyard and dry-docks would be allowed along the

other bank of the river stretching from just opposite to Chittagong port jetty No 1 towards the upstream and along the western bank (city side) stretching from 2km upstream off Karnaphuli 2nd bridge (Shah Amanat Bridge) to the further upstream, CPA sources said.

Mentionable, around 22km of the river starting from the estuary up to Halda junction alongside 50m shoreline (starting from the stream) on both sides are under the control of CPA.

Sources said in absence of rule CPA estate department issued permission for such structures having clearance from its hydrography, marine engineering and engineering departments.

CPA gave the permission following its 50-year land use plan introduced in 1986.

Under the system construction of slipways with 10-ft to 20-ft length was

allowed for an annual rent of Tk 7000 per foot and jetty at Tk 1300 per foot.

But, such structures grew up haphazardly while applications were made seeking permission for more such structures to narrow the river near Chittagong port channel and hamper navigability and flow, said the sources.

At present there are three slipways belonging to Karnaphuli Shipyard, Fishers Shipyard and Western Marine Shipyards and 79 private jetties, including large and small ones.

Applications were submitted for some ten more slipways while four big companies -- Bashundhara Group, KEPZ (Korean EPZ), AK Khan Group -- applied for some 20 more jetties when CPA needs to develop two more jetties of its own, said the sources.

Deputy Estate Manager Khademul Bashar said the new rules are being introduced to help develop

structures in a planned way.

He said after construction of new structures CPA would take steps to dredge the river by the money expected to come as rent from them. CPA is allowing the structures to help develop the prospective shipbuilding industries in the greater interest of the country, he added.

"Besides, construction of such structures at 2km upstream of Karnaphuli 2nd bridge would help the planned capital dredging of some 2.5km stretch of the river from Sadarghat towards upstream," he said.

Under the new rules CPA would charge rent for the whole of the riverfront the installation (to whom the slipway belongs) faces.

However, the rent for the slipway would be at the same rate as charged for jetty, ranges from Tk 1500 per foot to Tk 3000 per foot depending on the size, Bashar said.



The unplanned jetties and gangways along different points of the river Karnaphuli pose a threat to the navigability of Chittagong port channel. The picture was taken from Fishery Ghat area.

ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

### the week that was



Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khondaker speaks as the chief guest at a rally of freedom fighters and members of their families at a community centre in the port city on

STAR PHOTO

### New off-dock shed launched

Esack Brothers Industries Ltd, one of the country's leading off-dock service providers, launched a two-storied modern prefabricated warehouse or container freight station (CFS) at Maddhyam Halishahar near Chittagong port recently.

Maulana Taher Shah, a religious leader, inaugurated the shed as the chief guest. Company Chairman Abul Kashem, Managing Director Mohammad Yunus and Chief Executive Director (CED) Captain (Retd) Ahsan Aziz Shelley spoke at the inaugural function.

Shelley said Esack Brothers has launched its journey in 2003 with a view to rendering the best services to its clientele and becomes a leader very shortly in the off-dock sector.

He said to meet the clients' satisfaction and needs they have an international standard yard with 32 acres of land near the port and customs, three warehouses with an area of 2.6 lakh SFT, appropriate and adequate container handling equipment, security surveillance with CCTV coverage and electronic weighing 80 tons.

Yunus said to give customers more quick services they have recently procured some state-of-the-art equipment, including two more 42-ton capacity laden rich stacker, five cranes, some forklifts having 10 and five ton capacity, and installed an electronic weighing scale of 80 ton capacity.

Country's leading apparel and accessories maker KDS Group on March 21 launched a giant off-dock container yard KDS Logistics Ltd on 46 acres of land at Sitakunda, raising the tally of private logistics providers to 14.

### Second comic book on liberation war published

The second comic book on the War of Liberation titled "Kishore Jodha Salam" was launched here on March 25 at a publication ceremony.

Centre for Bangladesh Liberation War Studies (CBLWS) and GrameenPhone Ltd

jointly published the book for the school children as part of its series publication on War of Liberation of 1971. The book will be distributed free of cost among 20,000 students of class IV to class VIII at different schools in Chittagong division.

Industries Minister Dilip Barua unveiled the cover of the book as the chief guest at a local hotel. GrameenPhone's Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Company Secretary Raihan Ahmed Shamsi and CBLWS Chairman and Chief Researcher Major (Retd) Qamrul Hassan Bhuiyan also spoke at the function.

Dilip Barua lauded the role of GrameenPhone in promoting the spirit of the liberation war among the new generation. "Without knowing the real history of Bangladesh, the present generation will be in dark and the growth of today's children or students will neither be natural and proper," he said.

Raihan Shamsi said the series publication aims at providing children and students the real facts, figures and stories of liberation war and the contribution of freedom fighters and common people in 1971.

"They (children and students) will be able to know the real history, unprecedented sacrifices of our freedom fighters and find their role models through the stories depicted in these publications," he said, adding that a sense of patriotism will also be developed among them through such books.

Major (Retd) Qamrul shared some thrilling stories of 1971 and urged them to love Bangladesh and the freedom fighters.

He said six comic books will be published on liberation war. The first book titled "Tagra" for students of Dhaka Division was published in October last year and another four books will be published soon and distributed among the students of four other divisions, he added.

### Call to eradicate corruption

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (Retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury urged the upazila chairmen and vice chairmen to create example eradicating corruption from any of the corruption-prone organisations at their respective upazilas.

"If you can say one of the organisations

under your jurisdiction is corruption-free, it would be an example in the country," he said.

He was addressing a view exchange meeting with the people's representatives of Chittagong district as the chief guest at Chittagong Circuit House on Sunday. Chittagong Metropolitan Corruption Protection Committee organised the meeting.

Hasan Mashhud said corruption has penetrated all spheres of society.

"We have to uproot the corruption from every nook and corner to develop the country and the sense will have to come from the mind of the individuals," he said.

Chittagong Metropolitan Committee President Monwara Hakim Ali presided over the meeting while the ACC Chittagong Director Major Zulfikar Ali Majumder, Khagrachhari Committee President Nurunnabi Chowdhury and Bandarban Committee President Mong A Pru also spoke at the meeting.

### Bangalee Sangskriti Mela concludes

The two-day Bangalee Sangskriti Mela organised by Abasar Sangskritik Goshithi at city's DC Hill Park concluded on Saturday.

Prof Dr Anupam Sen was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony while Revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury was the main speaker.

Six cultural personalities were awarded for their contribution to the country's cultural activities, prizes were distributed among the winners of Shayamsundar-Shefali Memorial Competition at the function.

Speakers at the ceremony said the rich Bangalee culture comprises traditional jatra, drama and songs that enlighten the people.

Terming the satellite as only one of the bearers of thousands of multinational cultures, they called upon all to save the young generation from militancy and fundamentalism.

Dr Benu Prasad Barua, Dr Mohammad Abul Kashem, Mahub Hasan and Subhas Dey spoke at the ceremony.

Later, the guests handed over medals to the awardees and prizes among the winners of different events.

## Water crisis worsens in port city

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Water crisis is worsening in many areas of the port city due to repeated disruption in power supply, hampering production and lifting of water by the Wasa.

The port city faces shortage of around 30 crore litres of water daily in supply by the Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

The Wasa with its present infrastructural capacity can now supply not more than 30 per cent of the city's total daily demand of 50 crore litres.

With the lone nine crore litres capacity water treatment plant at Mohra and 74 deep tube-wells in different areas of the city, the Wasa has the optimum capacity of producing 21.5 crore to 22 crore litres of water daily.

But Wasa at present cannot produce water to its full capacity due to frequent power outages and technical problems in the deep tube-wells, said the officials at Wasa.

In last few weeks Wasa's production has come down to 19 crore litres a day, leaving a shortage of 25 crore to 30 crore litres of water a day, they added.

Amid such a poor water supply city dwellers are now suffering a lot from the very beginning of the summer.

The areas badly affected by the crisis include Lalhan Bazar, Agrabad, Hajipara, Dewanhat, Manchurabad, Halishahar, Madarbari, Bakalia, Patherghata, Alkaran, Nalapara, Kadamtali, Mogoltuli and Saraipara.

People in most of these areas get Wasa-supplied water for only one or two times a week.

The residents of Hazipara, Chariapara and Moulavipara under North Agrabad alleged that they got Wasa-supplied water for only three times last month.

Quarrel between the tenants and the building

owners for water has become a common scene in every morning in these areas. Many of the owners have dug alternative deep tube-wells on their own but have fail to ensure water supply as the pumps can't run due to loadshedding.

A housewife in Chariapara area on Monday showed this correspondent her utensils piled up on the kitchen. Two large empty drums and heap of clothes were lying in the bathroom.

"We got only three buckets of stinking water three days ago and we had to filter it before household use," said Halima, adding since then we are out of water supply.

Owner of the building

Shah Alam said they have gotten Wasa-supplied water a week ago and the ground water he could lift from his deep tube-well was found dirty.

The misery of the slum people is beyond description. A long queue of some 50 to 60 people including kids and aged women were seen beside a roadside water pipe at Pathantuli Road on Monday morning.

Shahjahan, a rickshawpuller waiting on the queue, said he could not pull his rickshaw since he had to wait there for drinking water for his family.

Wasa Chief Engineer Md Shafiqul Islam said with the present infrastructural capacity they have no immediate

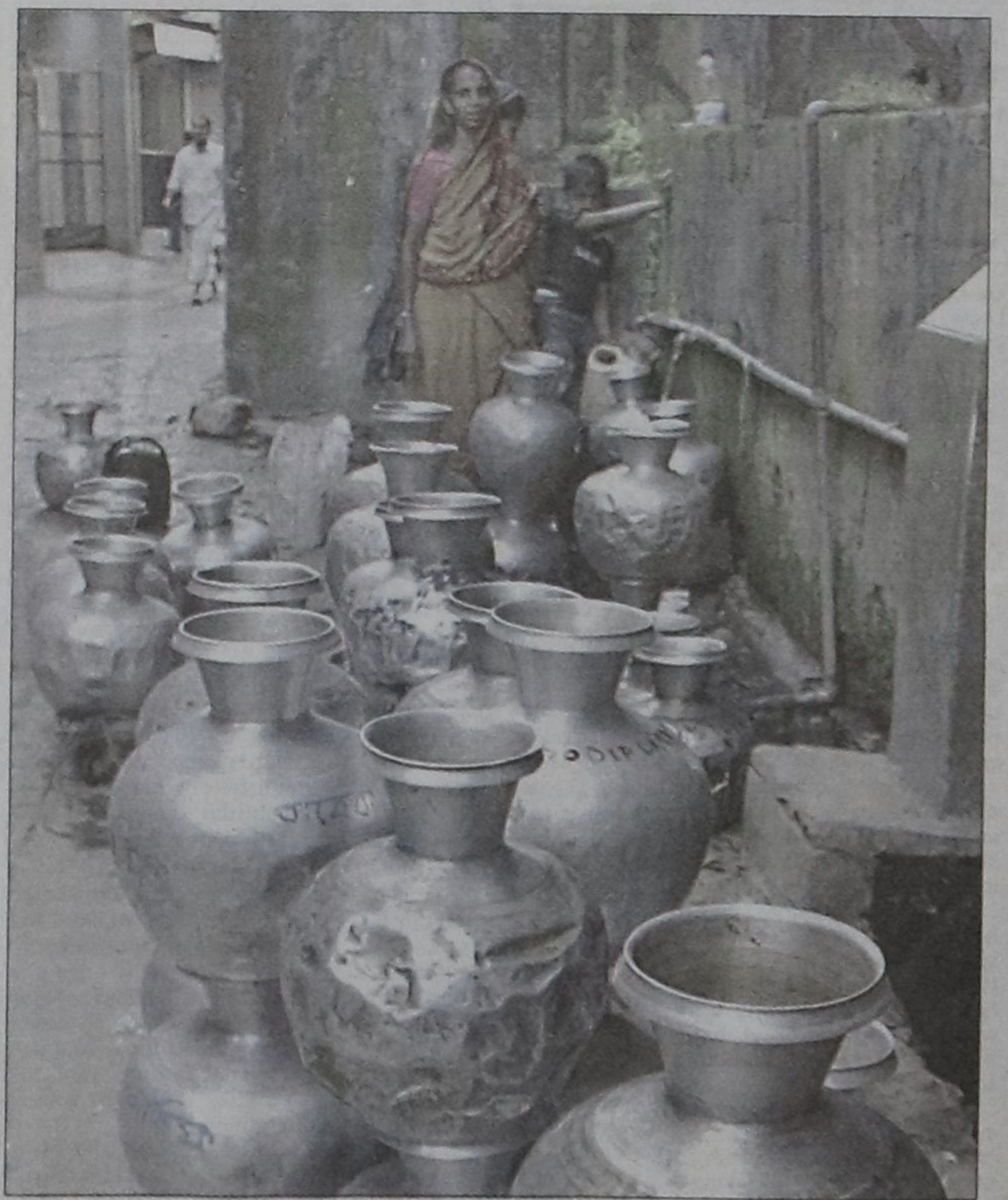
solution except waiting for improvement of power situation.

He said they would not be able to supply water as the existing deep tube-wells can not operate due to loadshedding.

Only 18 deep tube-wells, out of 74, operate daily since they are connected with the express power line where continuous power supply is ensured from the PDB substation.

Chittagong Wasa recently urged the Power Development Board (PDB) to connect 28 more deep tube-wells for non-stop power supply.

Sources said both the Wasa and PDB officials have already conducted a survey following the proposal.



STAR PHOTO

Residents of Battery Goli area in the port city line up their pitchers near a tap for Wasa-supplied water. The city dwellers are to wait in queue for hours for Wasa-supplied water due to acute water crisis.