

Process to construct new CCC building begins



The dilapidated old building of Chittagong City Corporation.

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has started the process to construct a new administrative building replacing its century-old building that has been lying in a most dilapidated condition for long.

A project has already been taken to construct a 16-storey administrative building replacing the existing three-

story building over some 14 kathas of land at Anderkilla in the port city.

It is one of the seven priority projects for which CCC kept allocation of Tk 25 crore in its proposed budget for the current fiscal year placed on June 28.

CCC, however, before the approval and allocation could be available, has started the first phase of construction work of the 16-storey building with a

foundation of 20-storey involving Tk 14 crore on its own.

The city corporation floated a tender on July 3 for selling out the old building and engaging a contractor to construct the new building. Following the tender the old building was sold out at Tk 38 lakh and demolition of the old building started on July 24.

The tender for appointing contractor was scheduled to

be opened on July 28.

Project Director CCC Executive Engineer Anwar Hossain said the demolition of the old building is going on in full swing and it might take two more weeks.

Anwar told this correspondent on Monday that they expect to appoint a contractor without any delay and start construction of the new building in August.

The old building which later served as an annex building of the six-storey new CCC building, developed cracks on almost every wall and ceiling of all the floors where plasters come off frequently.

Some 500 CCC officials and employees had been risking their lives everyday while working at offices of revenue, general, conservancy, accounts, law and relief sections housed in the old administrative building that started journey as the office of Chittagong municipality back in 1863. The building also housed offices of workers union and a bank.

It reached such a miserable state that plying of any heavy vehicle in the nearby roads forced its floors shake terribly, they said.

Though the process for constructing the new building goes on in full swing, CCC is yet to get design of the new building from Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

Anwar said the contractor to be appointed for the construction would work as a consultant and have responsibility for making design and getting it approved from the CDA before starting the construction work.

CDA Chief Town planner Shahinul Islam Khan said since demolition does not require any approval the process has so far been within the rules. But as per rules approval would be needed before going for construction of the new building and there is time to get the approval, he said.



A Creek Barrage at Echachhara brings 2500 hectares unused land under cultivation helping more than 200 farmers in the hilly area.

Creek barrages raise hope of farmers

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

The barrages built on the creeks running down the hills have raised hope of farmers in Khagrachhari, bringing over 500 acres of fallow land under cultivation to produce additional 2500 metric tons of food grains annually.

The barrages will not only help cultivate fallow and barren land and produce Aman and Boro paddy but also help farmer cultivate fish and raise ducks in the creek water.

At least 3,000 farmers are now being benefited from such 14 barrages in six upazilas, following the method of Malaysia and Thailand.

District Agriculture Extension Office constructed the barrages to harness the hilly water in the upstream to use them for cultivation of crops as well as for fish and poultry farming, sources said.

Five creek barrages have been built at Matiranga upazila, three in Ramghar upazila, two each in Mohalchhari and Dighinala upazilas and one each in Manikchhari and Laxmichhari upazilas in the last seven years that began in 2003, sources at agriculture office said. Tk 30 lakh has been spent to construct the barrages, sources said.

According to District Agriculture Extension Office, there are over 64,000 hectares of cultivable land. Of them, two thirds could be cultivated that hardly fulfilled the annual demand of about 2 lakh tonnes of food grains required for seven lakh people living in the district. Rest of the land remained fallen for years due to water crisis in the hill areas.

The creek barrage method was followed considering the fallow land, geographic condition, remoteness and upper stream

from hill, they said.

The correspondent talked to the farmers in the remote areas of Lemuchhari under Mohalchhari upazila and Echachhara under Matiranga upazila about the changes following the barrages.

Md Rahmat Ali, 45, a farmer at Natunpara in Matiranga upazila, said at least 300 farmers have been benefited from the barrage in the locality that helped bring more than 150 hectares of land under cultivation.

The local farmers' cooperative also cultivated fishes in the stuck up water of the barrage and earned Tk 3 lakh from the fish sale, he said.

Shantimoy Chakma 41, a farmer at Lemuchhari, said the creek barrage in the area benefited at least 175 farmers as it helped bring at least 100 hectares of land under cultivation. "We have cultivated fishes in the creek water and fulfilled our local demand," he said.

Sub-Assistant Agriculture Officer Amzad Hossain of Matiranga upazila said they have followed the method to develop the areas that inspired the farmers of neighbouring areas to approach us for constructing barrage in their locality.

Agriculture Officer Mohammad Rafiqul Islam of Mohalchhari Upazila said the

creek bridge not only meets the farmers' demand for food grains but also that of protein like fish and meat.

Deputy Director (DD) of Agriculture T M Monjurul Islam said they are happy over success in cultivation due to the creek barrage method that helps farmers become solvent financially and alleviate poverty from the society. Inspired by the method farmers of different hill areas are now demanding creek barrage in their locality, he said.

Cracks developed at different points of the Chittagong City Protection Embankment stretching from Patenga to Ananda Bazar, posing a serious threat of flood to the city. The photo was taken from Muslimabad area on Sunday.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIDDER

the week that was

Aktel centre opens at CEPZ

Mobile phone operator Aktel opened a centre at city's Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) Intersection to provide services to its customers.

Formal inauguration of the centre was held cutting cake and ribbon on Saturday.

The company Area Manager Joyanal Abedin Nipu, AK Khan Telecom Division Senior Manager Shahin Sawar, Assistant Manager Sohail Ahmed and the centre Proprietor Nurul Islam Kader were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Customers will be able to collect SIM card and recharge card, and get services of bill payment, SIM changing and others at the centre.

Construction of CPDL tower begins

Construction firm CPDL inaugurated the construction work of a

14-storey residential cum commercial tower "CPDL Paragon City" in the city's Anderkilla area on Saturday.

The company Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Engineer Iftekhar Hossain inaugurated the construction work.

Iftekhar in his speech at the inaugural function said the tower will be a first-ever full-fledge market for printing press and stationeries while the Anderkilla will get its previous heritage of business back.

He said the fourth to thirteenth floors of the tower will house flats ranging from 870 to 1,400 square feet and proper quality will be maintained in the construction work.

Unilever prize giving ceremony held

Prize giving ceremony of annual sports of Unilever Bangladesh Limited was held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB)

Chittagong Centre on Friday.

Unilever Bangladesh Limited Sports and Recreation Club organised the ceremony while the company Human Resources Director Jerry Jose distributed prizes among the winners as the special guest.

The Company Factory General Manager Ruhul Qudus Khan presided over the ceremony while Unilever Employees Union President Shafiqul Azam, General Secretary Abdul Jalil Mandal and Factory Human Resource Manager Al Kashem spoke.

Jerry Jose in his speech said the people working with the Unilever are members of a family and development of the company depends on their combined efforts.

He called upon all to play role in development of the company.

The company Production Manager (Soaps) Ziaul Abedin, Company Development Manager Pulak Barua, Production Manager (Personal Product) Atiqur Raza, Business Manager (Foods) Muslim Uddin, Factory Engineer Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan and Logistic Manager Abul Hasan attended were present at the

function. The ceremony was followed by a cultural programme.

Over 250 employees of the company's Kalurghat Factory competed in 30 indoor and 30 outdoor events.

Film exhibition in aid of Aila-hit people

Students of Biochemistry and Microbiology Department of Chittagong University (CU) organised a film festival at Social Science Faculty auditorium on Monday in aid of the Aila-hit people.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin was the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony.

Dr Alauddin in his speech lauded the step for raising fund for the people affected by cyclone Aila. He hoped that the students as well as the young generation will always come forward to fight the national disasters in future.

The department Chairman Mohammad Golam Kabir presided

over the ceremony while Biological Science Department Dean Prof Dr Mohammad Atiqur Rahman and Social Science Faculty Dean Prof Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin spoke at the function.

Six films were screened in the festival.

Fake electric cable factory unearthed

Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) on Saturday unearthed a fake electric cable factory and seized huge quantity of fake electric cables.

Police arrested three people identified as Md Alamgir, 25, Md Rabiul Islam, 26, and Sohag, 18, from the factory while they were pasting logos in the cables of different popular brands like Eastern Cables.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Detective Branch of Police raided a tin-shed house at Sholokbahar under Panchlaish Police Station around 5.00am and arrested the three tenants.

Police seized 53 bundles of electric cables, 30 bobbins, six sacks of PVC, four bundles of stickers, PVC mixer machine, cable cover machine and other equipment required for making cables from the house.

Assistant Commissioner (DB) Wahidul Hoque said the arrestees confessed their involvement in making fake cables using logos of Eastern Cables, Farzana Cables, Star Cables and Diamond Brand and marketing those to the electric shops in the city's Chawkbazar and Jubilee Road for long.

Sonali Bank customer confce held

Customer conference of Sonali Bank was held at Sonali Bank Bhaban in the port city on Saturday, marking the bank's countrywide programme on foreign remittance.

The Bank Chittagong Divisional General Manager Tapan Kumar Ghosh was the chief guest at the conference.

Tapan in his speech said sending money through hundi is risky, illegal and punishable offence.

He called upon all expatriates to send their foreign currency in a risk-free and legal way through banking channel.

The Bank Agrabad Corporate branch Deputy General Manager SM Abul Kalam Azad and KC Dey Road Corporate branch Deputy General Manager SM Mahfuzul Islam also spoke at the conference.

Later, the chief guest handed over crests and certificates among the best remittance senders and stakeholders.



Acting president of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee Shahriar Kabir speaks at a discussion at Maniruzzaman Memorial Hall on Sunday in memory of five martyrs who sacrificed their lives during a movement on July 26 in 1994 to resist a public meeting of former Jamaat chief Golam Azam in Chittagong.

STAR PHOTO