

Indian NH Group keen to set up 1000-bed hospital

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Narayana Hrudayalaya (NH) Group of India will set up a 1000-bed cardiac and multi specialty hospital on five lakh square feet of land in the port city involving an estimated cost of Rs 243 crore.

Renowned Cardiac Surgeon Dr Devi Shetty has taken the initiative to set up the world class healthcare institution.

NH Group has already sent a proposal to Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) for land to construct the hospital. A CPA team is likely to visit two NH Group institutions in Kolkata and Bangalore of India within a week, sources said.

The proposed 1000-bed hospital with specialised treatment facilities to the patients would have 180 Intensive Therapy Units, 100 Intensive Cardiac Care Units, 530 ward beds, 40 dialysis beds for treating chronic kidney patients and 150 specialised oncology department.

There would be 15 cardiac operation theatres, 15 multi-specialty operation theatres and five fully equipped latest cardiac catheterization labs.

The other salient features of the hospital would include a fully operational out patient department and diagnostic facilities offering ECG, Echo, Treadmill test, CT, MRI, ultrasonography and radiological services.

Besides, there would be a digitally equipped fully automated pathological lab and blood bank, a special unit offering comprehensive heart/health check up programmes and a radiotherapy room for treatment of oncology patients.

CPA formed a seven-member committee with representatives from CPA, Chittagong

Medical College and Hospital and the district Civil Surgeon office in this regard.

After examining and study of the proposed project, the committee made a few more queries, including those regarding mode of investment and returns, said the committee Member Secretary Jilur Rahman.

CPA on November 1 in a letter to Dr Kunal Sarker, a senior consultant cardiac surgeon and vice-president of NH Group, to furnish at the earliest convenience some information about the proposed healthcare centre to be set up following Bangladesh Private Sector Infrastructure Guidelines (BPSIG).

The information CPA sought about the project included brief description, feasibility study of reasonable depth, technical specification, estimated cost, performance parameters and the nature of output. It also wanted to know economic, financial and environmental sustainability, rights and obligations of the investor and the government, qualifications, financial capability and experience of the investors.

In the letter CPA also made it clear that government subsidy or existing assets, equity participation or direct loan guarantee may be granted.

When contacted CPA chairman said, "CPA responded to the proposal very positively and a detailed study is now going on to get it materialise. We have already sent a letter to NH Group asking them to send us a concrete proposal to go ahead with it."

"We have received an invitation from NH group to visit its institutions in India and a team is getting prepared to go there within a few days," he said while talking to this correspondent on Sunday.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Farm lands are being filled up for construction of private inland containers depots (ICD) at Patenga. A good number of ICDs have been constructed during the last two years, causing cultivable land to shrink while movement of heavy vehicles like container trailers also cause damage to the road leading to Patenga sea beach. The photo was taken from Patenga on Sunday.

Agar plantation on indigenous people's land

50 indigenous families fear eviction in Rangamati



SHANTIMOY CHAKMA

Foresters have planted agar tree on the lands cultivated by local indigenous people at Tarachhari in Farua union under Bilachhari upazila.

SHANTIMOY CHAKMA, Rangamati

Department of Forest (FD) has taken an agar plantation programme in the name of creating social forestation on 25 hectares of land in Rangamati, threatening livelihood of 50 indigenous poor families.

The locals alleged that the programme has been taken to evict the local indigenous people from their lands in the remote Tarachhari areas at Farua union under Bilachhari upazila of the district where they have been living for decades.

Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) South Forest Division created an 'Agar Bagan' on the land to create social forestation on the participatory basis with the local people, sources said.

But the forest department did not sign any agreement with the locals or involve them with the work, indigenous villagers said.

Under the countrywide Agar Project, Tk 45 lakh was spent in

plantation of agar trees in Rangamati Forest Circle last year. Same amount will also be spent in this regard this year, sources at forest department said.

Agar saplings have been planted on the land where local indigenous people cultivate.

Indigenous people said the forest officials neither informed them nor discussed before plantation of agar trees on their lands.

Amar Kumar Tangchangya, vice-chairman of Bilachhari upazila, said according to social forestation rules an agreement must be completed with participation of locals in the work before plantation. But the forest officials planted agar trees without any agreement and involving the locals with the works. "I think an ill motive worked behind the project or the foresters did it for embezzlement of the project money," he added.

Bangalya Tangchangya said he has been cultivating four acres of land for the last 34 years. He has

planted banana, papaya, turmeric and ginger on the land this year. Bangalya said unfortunately, the officials have also planted agar trees on the land without his permission.

He said the officials identified as Farid and Abdur Rashid planted trees on his land as per the directive of Amir Hossain Chowdhury, divisional forest officer (DFO) of CHT South Forest Division. The officials often threaten them of filing cases against the indigenous people when they protest, he added.

Dilip Kumar Tangchangya, a UP member of Farua union and also a headman, said he has been living on 40 acres of land for about 45 years. He said he is disappointed at the attitude of the forest officials towards the indigenous people.

He said though the DFO discussed with them about the social forestation on participatory basis but he has violated his commitment, creating an 'Agar Bagan'.

There are 50 indigenous families under 13 households in Farua union,

sources said.

When contacted, Amir said the indigenous people have been residing on reserve forestlands illegally for long. He said they have an order to evict them from government land, which they have not done this yet.

Amir said concerned 50 indigenous families are involved with the agar forestation as per the rules of social forestation. Accordingly, they will get 45 per cent as benefit, government 45 per cent and a fund will be created with 10 per cent of the benefits for further creation of social forestation, he said.

Ratan Kumar Majumder, conservator of forest (CF), Rangamati circle, said they have no plan to evict the villagers as they have been living on the land for about 50 years. They never tried to evict them despite government orders, Ratan said, adding that they (indigenous people) are the main beneficiaries of the project while a vested quarter is trying to foil the project.

theweekthatwas

Trained manpower needed for disaster cut

Speakers at a meeting on Wednesday underscored the need for trained manpower, equipment and determining strategy to reduce disaster risks.

They also emphasised participation of local people and institutes in this respect.

Community Development Centre (CODEC) and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) jointly organised the meeting titled "Raising disaster preparedness capacity at community and organisation levels" at the District Council auditorium in the port city.

The meeting was held under Dipiko 5 -- a European Commission financed project -- implemented by YPSA in the Chittagong city area and by CODEC at three fishermen villages in the coastal areas of Sitakunda upazila.

ADC Anisur Rahman Mian of Chittagong was the chief guest at the meeting while Fire Service and Civil Defence Assistant Director ABM Nurul Haq, University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC) Director (Admin) Prof Dr Jalal Ahmed and Maa-O-Shishu Hospital Deputy Director Dr Nurul Haq were the special guests.

CODEC Deputy Executive Director Kamol Sengupta presided over the meeting where Md Rezaul Karim, project manager of ActionAid Bangladesh, conducted a projection on Dipiko 5.

YPSA Director (Finance) Palash Chowdhury made the address of welcome.

'Help modernise education'

Speakers at a function urged the private entrepreneurs and rich people to come forward side by side with the government to help modernise education.

They also underscored the need for proper evaluation of teachers.

They were addressing a scholarship award giving ceremony at a community centre at Pahartali Baro Quarter in the port city on Friday.

Britti Parishad of Double Mooring, Bandar, Pahartali and Halishahar Block of Bangladesh Shikshak Samity, Chittagong organised the function.

MA Bashir Abu, IMS Group chairman and founder of Gatiyadenga Safia Mamtazul Haq School and College, was the chief guest at the ceremony where Haji Muhammad Mohsin College former principal Prof Fazlul Haque spoke as the principal speaker.

Chandpur Zila Samity President

Lion Mamunur Rashid and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) councillor Advocate Rehana Begum Ranu were the special guests with Britti Parishad President Md Mohib Ullah in the chair. Bashis Chittagong city President Md Emdadul Alam, General Secretary Pradip Kanungo and on behalf of the award recipients Fahmida Binte Walee and Fahmida Faiza Binti spoke at the ceremony. A total of 300 students received scholarship and certificates.

Frobel Play School received children's books

Indian Assistant High Commissioner AK Goswami distributed children's books at Frobel Play School, Chittagong in the port city on Thursday.

He handed over the books to Huwaira (Tehseen) Zohair, principal of the school, at a ceremony.

Goswami in his speech hoped that young students of the school will contribute to the development of the country in future.

Joint military training course ends. A month long joint military training course titled 'Tiger Shark-1' of Special Force Warfare and Salvage of Bangladesh Navy and US Special Force ended at BNS Isha Khan Swads Centre

in the port city on Thursday.

Assistant Naval Chief (Operations) Rear Admiral M Farid Habib addressed as the chief guest the concluding ceremony of the course that began on October 14.

US envoy in Bangladesh James F Moriarty was present as the special guest at the ceremony.

Twenty-four members of Bangladesh Navy and 11 members of US Pacific Command took part in the course on tactics of anti-terror drive in the maritime area.

Seminar on judiciary separation

Speakers at a seminar in the port city on Friday said separation of judiciary helped the judges dispose of a good number of cases in time.

Onya Drishti, a law related social organisation of the port city, organised the seminar titled "Separation of judiciary: Its evaluation" at the Chittagong Press Club auditorium.

Chittagong University (CU) Law Faculty Dean and Judicial Service Commission Member Prof Zakir Hossain was the chief guest at the seminar presided over by Premier University Law Department teacher and

the organisation Adviser Muhammad Moin Uddin.

The organisation Senior Vice President Mohammad Asadul Haque presented the keynote paper at the seminar. Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrates Mahbubur Rahman and Mohammad Abu Hannan and Chittagong District Bar Association General Secretary Ziauddin Ahmed spoke at the seminar.

They emphasised the need for imparting long term training for the newly appointed judges and consider-

ing promotion after success of their activities.

World Diabetes Day observed

'World Diabetes Day' was observed in the port city on Saturday.

To mark the day Chittagong Diabetic Association brought out a procession that paraded the main thoroughfares of the city and ended on the hospital

premises followed by a meeting.

Chittagong Deputy Commissioner (DC) Farid Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury was the chief guest at the meeting with Association President Prof Dr LA Kaderi in the chair.

The speakers expressed grave concern over the spread of diabetes in recent times and called upon all to be aware of the diseases.

Association General Secretary Prof Jahangir Chowdhury, Joint Secretary Morshedul Alam Kaderi, Javed Absar Chowdhury, Dr MA Jafor and Dr Khairul Bashir spoke at the meeting.



Prof Ratan Khashnabis of Kolkata University speaks at a seminar organised by Samaj Samikkha Kendra at Regional Public Administration Training Centre marking October Revolution anniversary on Friday.