

ONE-YEAR OF MANJUR ALAM

# No remarkable development in port city



Administrative building of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Mayor M Manjur Alam, inset.

STAR: PHOTO

**PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY**

M Manjur Alam will complete one year of his tenure on July 17 as mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

Manjur who took oath as mayor on July 18 last year, has been serving the city corporation for 17 years as commissioner and acting mayor.

He surprised the city dwellers defeating his one time political mentor three-time elected mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Manjur could not take his development work up to the expectation of the city dwellers that he declared in his 56-point election manifesto.

The city people think that waterlogging was one of the major causes of debacle for Mohiuddin in the last city corporation polls where Manjur is yet to show any positive result.

CCC officials refused to provide any information about one-year of its performance to journalists, saying that the higher authority strictly prohibited them to divulge any information in this regard. On condition of anonymity one official said the mayor has prohibited them to give any information to press.

He said a project of Tk 48 crore for Raja Khali Khal and Moheskhal Khal would be completed within next month, including a road on the bank of the canals. The CCC also built nine bridges, one old

home at Pahartali and three colleges during this time, he added.

Manjur in his election manifesto told that he divided the development into three terms -- short, mid and long term -- which was totally ignored last year.

Manjur said he is satisfied with his work of last one year compared to the five years as he did not get any complaint from any part of the society. He said one year is nothing but CCC has done many things during this period.

He said the city corporation is implementing different projects of Tk 100 crore, but did not elaborate.

Mayor promised to give priority to waterlogging keeping it in short-term scheme. Many areas of the city remains waterlogged during rain in the early July. About the alleviation of waterlogging, he said they have been dredging the city canals. He said problems of waterlogging would end when the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) finishes its dredging at the entrance of Chaktai canal.

Like the waterlogging problem, no remarkable initiative is seen in health and education sector during the last one year, city experts said.

The CCC gained big success in health and education sector during Mohiuddin's tenure, they said, adding that these two sectors have also been neglected. The CCC has also failed to free the city from mosquito menace during the

period, they said.

When asked about the one-year performance of the city corporation, Mohiuddin refused to comment about it saying that the people will evaluate it. He said he gives advice to the present mayor when he (mayor) needs which will continue in future also.

Mohiuddin said the city corporation needs a city government for its development. "I tried to establish the city government to ensure the proper development of port city but could not," he said. He said a section of politicians and experts opposed his idea saying that it will establish dominance of CCC, which was totally wrong as the city government is a tested formula for development.

He also did not make any comment about the present condition of CCC's income generating sectors. But, he talked about the performance of income generating sectors during his tenure. He said his aim was not to impose the load of taxes on the city dwellers rather insisted on the corporation's income.

City planner Engineer Ali Ashraf said the city corporation could not solve any of the major problems like waterlogging and traffic jam in the city. It has established some colleges and increased beautification of the city during the World Cup Cricket in last one year which was not the principal job of corporation.

## theweekthatwas

### Two vessels to be launched

Shipbuilding company Western Marine is set to launch two vessels.

The vessel named "Birsrestho Ruhul Amin" will be used by Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and another is a pilot vessel titled "PV Rakkhi" by the Chittagong Port Authority.

The vessels will be handed over to the respective organisations by this month, says a press release.

The "Birsrestho Ruhul Amin", a 60-meter long ferry equipped with Yanmar main engine, has capacity of carrying 340 passengers, 27 crew and 27 trucks.

The ro-ro ferry is the first of its kind ever built in Bangladesh. Earlier, the government used to import such ferries from Denmark for inland use.

The "PV Rakkhi" built for the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has been designed to transport pilots and sailors from the outer anchorage to the shore with a carrying capacity of 12 passengers and 10 crew.

The grand delivery ceremony of the two vessels is scheduled for the end of July at the River Karnaphuli shore.

### Contribution of Prof Khaled recalled

Journalist Abul Momen on Monday said Chittagong has lots of scope to bring dynamism in journalism.

He was delivering Professor Mohammad Khaled memorial speech titled "Mass media and Chittagong: The hope of transitional period," organised by Chittagong Press Club (CPC) marking the 90th birth anniversary of Prof Mohammad Khaled at CPC auditorium.

Momen said publishing newspapers from Chittagong is now the demand of the age.

"But the matter of regret that no potential entrepreneur has still seen to invest in the sector," he added.

He recalled the contribution of Prof Khaled to expanding journalism at grassroots level.

Prof Dr Zinbodhi Bhikhu said Prof Khaled was not only a great journalist but also one of the successful organisers of the War of Liberation of 1971.

He also played an important role for the nation as a member of constitution reform committee in 1972, Dr Zinbodhi said.

Journalist Asif Sirji said Prof Khaled was the founder of the CPC and he was

the first general secretary of the club.

Former lawmaker and vice president of Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) Majharul Hoque Shah said Prof Khaled was a valiant leader against injustice. His works will show us the way to go ahead in future, he added.

General Secretary of Chittagong Union of Journalist Nazim Uddin Shyamal and CPC General Secretary Rashed Rauf also spoke at the meeting with CPC President Abu Sufian in the chair.

### Qubee starts operation

Internet Y-Max service provider company Qubee lunched its operation in Chittagong.

The company announced it on Saturday at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club (CPC).

The company made its first presence in the port city with limited service facilities eight month ago and now it started its activities in full swing, said the organisers at the press conference.



A visitor looks at the busts at a sculpture exhibition of artist Kajal Dev at Fine Arts Institute in the port city on Saturday.

"It is high time for Chittagong to get world class internet facilities, being the principal business hub of the country", they added.

Qubee Chief Marketing Officer Nehal Ahmed, head of Chittagong Biplab Banarjee and

Chief Sales and Distribution Officer Firoz Ahmed were present on the occasion.

### Project for children with disability inaugurated

Music and art education project was inaugurated in the port city on Saturday with a view to improving

condition of the children with disability.

Concern Services for Disabled (CSD) launched the project.

Managing Director of Berger Paint Rupali Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the inaugural ceremony with Premier University Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Anupom Sen in the chair.

Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam spoke at the programme as the special guest.

CSD Adviser Prof Shyesta Khan, Senior Vice-President Arun Dasgupta, Prof Shishir Barua and cultural activists Arun Saha, Uma Dey and Antara Chowdhury were present at the programme.

### Reception ceremony held

Former Student Association of Department of Sociology of Chittagong University accorded a reception to Mahbulul Alam for being elected senior vice-president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Premier University Vice-Chancellor Dr Anupom Sen was present as the chief guest at the function at Chittagong Club on Saturday with Sirajul Hoque Ansari in the chair.

Dr Anupom in his speech said Mahbulul was not only a student of sociology he has also gone through every part of society which eases the way to success in his life.

Former CCCI president MA Latif MP, Prof Dr AF Imam Ali, Prof Dr Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, Prof Dr Gazi Saleh Uddin, Prof Dr Obaidul Karim, Mirsarai upazila Chairman Gias Uddin, politician Khorshad Alam Sazan, former CUCSU leader Rokshana Islam Rita, Advocate Mujibul Hoque and Md Kamal Uddin also spoke at the programme.

# Outer ring road to be port city gateway



Outer Ring Road on the embankment along the Bay of Bengal.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

**PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY**

A 14.7km ring road will be constructed from Patenga sea shore to Sagorika in Chittagong, considered to be the future main gateway to the port city.

The town planners said around 60 lakh city dwellers will be benefited if the project titled 'Chittagong City Outer Ring Road' is implemented.

The development experts said with the implementation of the project, the port city will not only be benefited from the road communication but also expedite its economic activities, including industrialisation.

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) will implement the project with the financial assistance of the government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Tk 856.29 crore has already been approved for the project of which JICA will provide Tk 681.11 crore and the government Tk 175.17 crore.

CDA appointed SMEC Australia as engineering consultant while Dainichi Japan and ACE Bangladesh will work with it as sub-consultant.

Tk 115.71 crore has been allocated for engineering consultant, said CDA Chief Engineer Iqbal Hossain Majumder.

Iqbal said the project is scheduled to be concluded in December 2014. It will modify the present look of Chittagong and play a great role in changing the city into a modern industrial one with best communication facilities, he added.

Chittagong is the main commercial hub as well as the second largest city of the country.

Chittagong port, Shah Amanat International Airport, including largest industrial and commercial areas like Kalurghat industrial area, Agrabad commercial area and export processing zone are situated in the city.

Though from all aspects, it is an important place in the country as well as in South-East Asia but the city is vulnerable to cyclone and natural disaster like tsunami and tidal surge, he said, adding that it all created the context to take the project.

He said the infrastructure and productive sector of the port city suffered by far a large amount of damage by natural disaster like cyclonic surge in 1991.

The Ring Road will help save the important constructions and infrastructures like EPZ, Port, Naval base, defence constructions and airport from the disaster and reduce the gridlock in the port city too, he said.

CDA sources said Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JIBIC) started their pilot study for developing multi-sector infrastructures in the port city on August, 2005.

The study was concluded on March, 2006.

The study emphasised construction of coastal road and strengthening embankment to save the city from the natural disaster and modernise the city.

CDA officials said JIBIC appointed a team for special assistance for the project formation (SAPROF) on the basis of the study which conducted a feasibility study in June, 2008 and submitted its final report to CDA in January, 2009.

Chittagong Outer Ring Road is an important part of the study and was approved by Department of



The red line shows the legend of the Chittagong Outer Coastal Ring Road.

Environment, they said.

An action plan has also been chalked out for rehabilitation of the affected people due to land acquisition, they said.

CDA Chairman Abdus Salam told The Daily Star that it was a challenge for them to approve the budget for the development of the city.

Termining it a great success, Salam said now they would face another challenge of eviction, rehabilitation and compensation.

The affected people would get proper compensation for their land and homesteads, Salam said, adding that CDA will also consider the present economic condition of the locals to enhance their living standard.

CDA town planner Mohammad Zahir Ahmed said Tk 140 crore has been allocated for land acquisition and Tk 20 crore for constructing new homes and other resettlement facilities like water supply, electricity for rehabilitation of the affected people.