



PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

ANANYA RESIDENTIAL AREA

A promise  
UNDELIVERED

“We hope that the project will result in the expansion of the city, and we will move closer to our goal of planned urbanisation,” said Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA.

SIFAYET ULLAH

One of the main housing projects undertaken by the Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) in 2017 was the Ananya Residential Area (Second Phase) project.

The much-publicised housing project for port city residents belonging to the middle-income background started five years ago. However, the project is still in limbo as the authorities are yet to begin the construction of the Tk 2,833 crore mega project due to a fund crisis.

The initiative aimed to ease the increasing strain on the port city’s residential areas by constructing houses outside the city.

According to the CDA authorities, this project was supposed to take place on at least 2,000 plots, which will partially address the housing needs of the Chattogram residents.

“We hope that the project will result in the expansion of the city, and we will move closer to our goal of planned urbanisation,” said Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA.

“However, due to a lack of funding, the project has not yet begun. But we spoke with a bank and are hoping to get a loan shortly to commence the project,” he added.

In the past, the CDA finished the Ananya-1 project in 2005 and gave the owners 1,733 plots.

CDA started the second phase of the project in 2016. The project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) on January 31 of



2017, at an estimated cost of Tk 2,833 crore.

With the aid of a bank loan, CDA decided to develop the project on a parcel of land measuring 418.73 acres.

However, during that period, the price of land in Bathua, Quiash, Burishchar, and Shikarpur moujas increased due to the publication of a gazette requesting a payment of three times more the money as compensation for land acquisition. This resulted in a halt in the project.

To keep the cost reasonable, the CDA took the initiative once more to embark on the project at Bathua, Shikarpur, and portions of Quaish moujas.

The project’s area has decreased to 276 acres from its originally planned 418.73 acres.

Around 40 percent of the project’s overall area will be dedicated to a road, a lake, a playground, and greenery. In the remaining space, 2,000 residential plots of various sizes and 20 commercial plots of considerable sizes would be created.

A hospital, convention centre, and educational facilities will also be built for the locals’ convenience.

Contacted, CDA Chairman Zahirul Alam said due to the lockdown situation during the Covid-19 pandemic, the project experienced frequent delays.

Since its founding in 1959, CDA has built 11 housing projects in the city, including the CDA Residential Area, Kalpolok Residential Area, and Karnaphuli Residential Area.

Waterlogging a  
perennial problem  
for the port city  
22 wards vulnerable, 3 at  
extreme risk, finds study

ARUN BIKASH DEY

A total of 13.5 square kilometre area of the port city is directly at risk of waterlogging, while a total of 52 square kilometre area is vulnerable due to unplanned urbanisation, finds a study.

The study -- conducted by Save the Children and Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) -- revealed that 70 percent of the port city’s canals have vanished in 53 years.

As the city has been developed in an unplanned manner, its low-lying area, including Agrabad, Halishahar, Bakalia, Mohra, Khatunganj and Chaktai submerged by the tidal surge even during dry seasons.

When the city’s drainage master plan was formulated by John R Snell, a US based company, in 1969, 70 canals were found in the city.

However, the number has declined to 22 in the last 53 years, as per a survey conducted by Chattogram Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa).

The study, titled “Multi-Hazard Contingency Plan for Chattogram City Corporation”, also revealed that a total of 22 wards of Chattogram



City Corporation (CCC) are directly at risk of waterlogging. Of those, six are at very high risk, 13 are at moderate to low risk, and three fall under the extreme risk category.

If the waterlogging problem is not resolved quickly, even with a normal rainfall of 200mm per day, most of the low-lying areas of the city may submerge under 1.3 feet of water, according to the study, funded by Save the Children.

Md Shah Jalal Misuk, assistant professor, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), worked as the chief consultant of the study.

He told The Daily Star that the categories of very high, extreme and moderate risk have been considered based on the level of waterlogging and its economic impact.

“The wards that are predicted to go under 3 feet to 3.5 feet of water fall under the very high-risk group, while those predicted to go under one to 3 feet of water are in the extreme-risk group,” said Misuk.

“The study has been conducted to formulate an action plan for the CCC so that it can address the issue effectively. Once the project is completed, CCC would be the maintenance authority and so the study would help the CCC in this regard,” he added.

The action plan contains several recommendations to reduce the risk of waterlogging, including regular monitoring of canals and drains to keep those free from obstacles, giving room for the free flow of water, covering the drains with high slabs or netting, evicting illegal structures from drains and canals and conducting awareness programmes among city dwellers.

‘Netaji was here, so was Masterda’  
Century-old sweet shop Bose brothers bears memories of revolutionaries

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Taufiq, Minhaj, Ishita and Satyajit, four students of Chittagong University, went to have tea and sweets at Bose Brothers, a historic confectionery located in the port city’s Nandan Kanan area, on a Wednesday afternoon.

“I grew up hearing the rich history of this shop from my grandfather. I have wanted to visit the place ever since,” said Ishita.

“This is my first visit to this place,” she added.

“When Ishita told us the history of the shop, we wanted to have some sweets and tea at this place,” said Satyajit.

“We have heard that the shop is over 100-year-old and heroes of the anti-British movement, including Netaji

Subhash Chandra Bose, Masterda Surja Sen and Pritilata Waddedar, came to the shop regularly,” he added.

“The place is a pride of Chattogram, although not everyone knows about it,” said Taufiq.

Located in the intersection of Nandan Kanan, this premium sweet shop, Bose Brothers was established in 1920.

While visiting the shop, it was seen that different kinds of sweet items were being showcased. Besides, fast food items, including Singara, Samosa and cake, were also on sale.

Customers ordered tea while chit-chatting in the shop. Some eight staffers were seen serving them.

Tarun Kanti Bose, a member of the third generation of the Bose family, now runs the shop. He said it was established by his grandfather.



“My father was very young when my grandfather established the shop in 1920. I have heard from my grandfather and father that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose came to the shop whenever he visited Chattogram,” said Tarun.

He, however, clarified that Netaji was not related to his forefathers by blood, as the name Bose brothers might confuse some.

“My father Sudhangshu Bimal Bose was also an anti-British revolutionary and a close associate of Masterda Surja Sen,” he said.

“After the demise of my grandfather, my father took over the shop. After my father’s death in 1988, I started running the place,” he added.

The shop also bears memories of the Language Movement, liberation struggle and anti-autocratic movement, he said.

“We have been running the shop for over 100 years.”

Ranjit Roy Chowdhury, a nephew of Sudhangshu Bimal Bose, said the Bose family is struggling to save the ancestral business in the present situation.

“The government should take initiatives to protect the historic shop,” he said.



Ctg getting ready to  
welcome PM

CCC conducting beautification works, repairing  
dilapidated roads ahead of Dec 4 rally

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Enthusiasm prevails among the leaders and activists of Awami League and its associate organisations in Chattogram over the rally of the party president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, scheduled to be held in the city’s Polo Ground on December 4.

Chattogram City Corporation has been conducting beautification works on different roads ahead of the rally, including cleaning and painting footpaths, decorating flyovers with colourful lights and repairing dilapidated roads in different areas.

CCC staffers were seen painting the footpaths in Lalkhan Bazar area on Sunday morning.

Shahadat Hossain, one of the onlookers, said he was happy to see that the footpaths were being painted on the occasion of the prime minister’s visit.

Meanwhile, banners and posters welcoming the premier to Chattogram covered the main thoroughfares of the city. Most of the posters and banners are from leaders aspiring for a promotion in the upcoming councils of AL and its associate organisations, said party sources.

During a recent visit to different areas, including Jamal Khan, Kazir Dewri, Lalkhan Bazar, Tiger Pass, Dewan Hat, Kadamtali, New Market and Anderkill, this correspondent found numerous posters and banners welcoming the premier.

However, none took the required permissions from CCC as per rules, said sources.

Asked, CCC deputy chief conservancy



officer Morshedul Alam Chowdhury said, “The city dwellers are excited as the PM is addressing a public rally in Chattogram after 10 years. Banners and posters are part of such enthusiasm.”

“We will start removing the posters the day after the rally,” he said.

Echoing the same, Mafizur Rahman, general secretary of Chattogram south district unit of AL said, “A festive mood has been created ahead of the December 4 rally. We are planning to gather at least 10 lakh people on the day.”

Asked about the posters and banners, Mafizur said, “AL is a big party and there is no bar from the party’s central committee. Anyone can put up posters and banners to welcome the premier.”

Contacted, Al Chattogram city unit vice president Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said the prime minister is expected to announce a development package for the city from the rally, hence the enthusiasm.

Al lawmaker for Chattogram-II MA Latif echoed similar sentiments.