The government has endorsed a proposal to appoint a contractor for the construction of 3.4-kilometre tunnel connecting two banks of the Karnaphuli River in Chittagong.
China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), nominated by the Chinese government, has been put in charge of the crucial infrastructure project.

Terming it a “dream project", the government in its project proposal said it wanted to build Chittagong into ‘One City Two Towns’, modelled on China’s Shanghai.

The Cabinet Committee on Public Procurement headed by Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith in a meeting at the Secretariat on Wednesday decided on the construction company, said Cabinet Division’s Additional Secretary Mostafizur Rahman.

He told journalists the tunnel would cost Tk 56.46 billion, but with VAT the project cost would go up to Tk 64.78 billion.

On Nov 24, the ECNEC approved the Tk 80 billion project.

China’s EximBank has agreed to provide around Tk 50 billion for the project. The rest will be funded by the Bangladesh government.

The project is targeted to be completed by 2020.

The tunnel will connect Chittagong Port and Anowara Upazila and is expected to make communication between Chittagong and Cox’s Bazar easier. It will also ease traffic on two bridges over the Karnaphuli River.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Bangladesh and China for the construction of the tunnel during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s Beijing visit in June last year.

Bangladesh Bridge Authority (BBA), CCCC and Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Limited later jointly conducted a technical and financial survey.

On Jun 30, the BBA, which will implement the project, and CCCC signed a commercial agreement.
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New project is good if it helps people and OUR business. .........Project should be cost effective, no misuse of public money PLEASE.
But, before that please make sure that the existing roads and bridges r okay...................
Honesty has no alternative......remember, this is PUBLIC MONEY...................................

surjo dipto • 2 years ago

Unlike Dhaka, which has unfortunately been turned into an urban planner’s nightmare because of not being able to cope with the phenomenon of over-urbanization in the absence of proper urban planning tools and their implementation impeding proper urban functions, Chittagong still can be developed into a world-class city provided appropriate structural plans are drafted and implemented on time ( An internationally reputed Architectural Firm/ Company like the Architecture and Urban Planning Firm/Company which has planned the new Federal Capital of Kuala Lumpur ( Putra Jaya) may be appointed to prepare the so called Master Plan of the New Chittagong Metropolis).
The idea of building an urban mosaic based on the Shanghai model is quite appropriate for the magnificent geographical settings are not only there but probably it is even better in Chittagong and its surroundings than that of in Shanghai. All the city-fathers will have to do, preferably having an unified Metropolitan Government, will be to prepare and implement a proper land-use map incorporating a green landscaping of the hilly and non-hilly regions of the City and development of the sea front following the Bombay Esplanade model with enough facilities in the Esplanade for leisure and tourists attractions.
The proposed tunnel will surely facilitate building a majestic Chittagong Metropolis worth living for.
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