

Govt plans Chandpur-2 EZ to boost solar, agro-based industries

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The government has planned to build Chandpur-2 Economic Zone to establish solar and agro-based industries to develop agriculture products and the renewable energy sector for the country's economic growth.

In this regard, the Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) has designed a massive plan to construct the Chandpur-2 Economic Zone on around 8,667 acres of land at Haimchar of Chandpur in Chattogram, said sources.

The project's objective is to drive economic growth, employment generation, poverty alleviation, promote exports and socio-economic development and contribute to the country's overall development goals.

The project cost is estimated at around Tk3,384.51 crore, a significant part - Tk2,812.96 crore - of which is to go for developing the roads. Besides, Tk571.55 crore will be spent on power distribution in the economic zone area, according to the BEZA.

BEZA will construct the economic zone with government funds and to encourage rapid economic development through diversification of industries and job creation, a senior official told the Daily Sun.

The economic zones authority is negotiating with foreign and local companies to establish the zone, the official also said.

The project aims to boost export of agro-based products and processed products to get foreign direct investment (FDI) and economic growth in the region, the official added.

BEZA is establishing economic zones in all potential areas in Bangladesh, including the backward and underdeveloped regions, with a view to encouraging rapid economic development through increase and diversification of industry, employment, the official said.

The economic zone authorities function as a promoter and service provider to ensure sustainable development and improve the quality of life for people by

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EZ FOR BOOSTING SOLAR, AGRO INDUSTRIES

CHANDPUR-2 ECONOMIC ZONE PLAN


- Area: 8,667 acres
- Cost: Tk3,384.51 cr
- Tk2,812.96cr for road development
- Tk571.55cr for power distribution

ROADS TO BE DEVELOPED

- Shariatpur-Bhedarganj Highway
- Chandra-Haimchar Zila Road
- Mollar Bazar-Ishanbala Bazar Road
- Khayerpotti-Ishanbala Ghat Road
- Dhaka-Barishal Highway

AIMS

- Economic growth
- Employment generation
- Poverty alleviation
- Boosting exports
- Socio-economic development
- Diversify industries



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establishing international standard economic zones in the country, the official added.

BEZA aims to ease the unemployment crisis and increase economic growth of the area. More than 1.09 lakh people were estimated to be living in Haimchar upazila in 2011.

The available workforce is ready for the employment of the economic zones.

Environmental screening

The floodplains are characterised by mixed vegetation and support a habitat of rich biodiversity and suitable for solar

and agro-based economic and industrial activity.

The average temperature varies from 16.02°C to 30.07°C. The historical maximum annual rainfall was recorded as 2,892mm in 2017 and minimum was 1301mm in 2017 and is vulnerable to monsoon flooding governed by monsoon rainfall, according to the initial survey report.

Power distribution

The Bangladesh Rural Electrification Board (BREB) has established two 33/11 KV distribution substations to provide electricity at Sakhipur and Gosairhat-2 connected to a 132/33KV grid substation located at Rudrokar, Shariatpur.

The BEZA has proposed to establish 33/11KV AIS 1 nos 20 MVA substations with 2X10/14 MVA transformer at the area.

Road network

There are 5 notable direct and indirect roadways and national highways.

According to the BEZA proposal, Shariatpur-Bhedarganj Highway (R860), Chandra-Haimchar Zila Road (Z8699), Mollar Bazar-Ishanbala Bazar Road, Khayerpotti-Ishanbala Ghat Road and Dhaka-Barishal Highway (N8) will be developed for smooth transportation of the economic zone.

Water supply

The Maghem River is

a potential source of surface water for the proposed economic zone. According to the proposal, no consideration of any water transmission line and land acquisition for the off-site area.

Rainwater from the proposed economic zone site and its surrounding area run naturally on low lawns and finally fall in the Meghna River. BEZA has proposed no consideration of any canal and land acquisition from the proposed site to the riverbank for the off-site area.

There is no plan for telecommunication and gas supply in the initially proposed project.