



Star Chittagong

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Major drive to recover CPA land soon

NURUL ALAM

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) is to launch a major demolishing drive soon to remove illegal structures on its land, port sources said.

Huge land owned by the CPA would be recovered from the grabbers and preparation was on to go for the raid, sources said.

Private parties are illegally occupying a total of 329 acres of CPA land. Of them, about 50 acres were recovered during the raids launched on different occasions in the last two years.

Some government organisations and agencies are also illegally occupying 232 acres of land, they added.

CPA owns a total of 2302 acres of land in and around the port, official sources said.

CPA in a drive last week demolished Kabir Super Market

that housed over 60 commercial establishments at Barik Building Crossing in presence of hundreds of people and recovered land worth about Tk 4 crore.

CPA magistrate Munir Chowdhury led the day-long drive at Barik Building with the assistance of police, firefighters and port employees.

A local businessman who is owning a big ship-breaking yard at Sitakundu, grabbed the land in collusion with the nexus of corrupt port officials. They earned huge money by establishing commercial houses on the illegally occupied land, sources said.

When CPA served notice the local businessman reportedly lobbied with top government officials to escape the eviction but failed, sources said.

Over 2,000 illegal structures were demolished during the eviction drive in the past two years, port sources said. Some

lands have been occupied even for 50 years, sources added.

The demolished structures included residential hotel, godown, teachers' residential complex, madrassah, shopping complex, salt industries, commercial offices, cottage industries, restaurants, labour colony, markets, fish stalls, garages and offices of political parties and labour unions.

The biggest eviction drive was launched at south Halishahar on May 6 last year. Twenty-five acres of land known as dock labourers' residential area, illegally occupied by a pro-Awami League labour leader Sirajul Islam Chowdhury alias 'dock Siraj' were recovered.

The labour leader reportedly used to earn huge money by letting out the illegally occupied lands to different private bodies.

Port authority faced problem to recover a land of 20 kathas occupied by ruling party labour

organisation Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal of Chittagong port.

The CPA had to postpone the drive due to interference by a local minister. Finally the port authority recovered the land and demolished the office of Sramik Dal last year.

Even huge CPA lands remained under encroachment at the areas from Banglabazar to Chaktai, sources said. About 500 illegal establishments were erected inside the port colony without any permission from port authority.

A nexus reportedly collect huge money every month from the occupants, sources said. Few cases are forwarded for eviction.

After total recovery of lands from the private grabbers, measures would be taken to recover lands illegally occupied by different government organisations.

MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD



Children picking through garbages to earn a living is a common scene at Chittagong City Corporation's Ananda Bazar dumping ground at Halishahar.

CPS International Photo Contest

Stone collectors defy ban

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Defying ban a group of unscrupulous elements have been collecting stones from hills at Lama and Ali Kadam upazilas of Bandarban posing threat to environment.

An illegal and briskly business of stones (hard rocks) have been going on at Faitong and Gajalia areas of Lama upazila in the recent months. The unscrupulous elements are extracting stones from the nearby hills.

They engage labourers to collect the stones from the hills, some times with the help of minor explosion, and gather them at different Headmanpara and local markets.

Later, Truckloads of stones are reportedly trafficked through Baniarchhari road to different parts of the country.

The stones of over Tk. 5 lakh were collected at Lama in February and March this year.



A woman at the CPS International Photo Exhibition at the Chittagong Government Art College gallery.

Real treat for photography lovers

MOHIT UL ALAM

Moudud Ul Alam, President of Chittagong Photographic Society, was welcoming the guests at the inauguration of the weeklong second CPS International Photo Contest function at the Art College, Chittagong on May 2.

He said the organisers were very happy to receive a wide entry of photographs from as many as 30 countries of more than 50 photographers. The countries ranged from Argentina to the U.S.A. Alam's words proved true when the audience were finally let in to see the photographs arranged on all three floors of the northern building of the College. Renowned photographer Nawajish Ali Khan inaugurated the show as the chief guest.

The exhibition was a real treat for the photography lovers of Chittagong. The photo-

graphs, nearly 250 of them, in 10X12 inch frames, were divided into two categories: the Color Print Section and the Monochrome Print Section.

In the first category there were 128 photos, and in the second category 88 photos. Both sections contained photographs of extraordinary quality, showing both imagination and technical skills. Crowd going back home did surely carry fond memories of the nice pictures they had seen.

Most photographs dealt with subjects as various as possible, though majority of them included nature photography and human life at its many travails. They hung photos of exotic landscapes ("Homeward Bound" by Ln, Dung-Lewn from Hong Kong), surrealistic vision ("Tear Drop" by Tan Minh Nguyen from the U.S.A.), human anguish ("Pilgrim" by Tapash Shome from Bangladesh), portrait ("The

Readhead" by Painte Hills from Canada), destination ("Towards the Closed Door" by Anindya Majumder from India), children ("One in the House" by Vitlaie Jenh from Latvia), and old faces ("Age" by Pradip Aich from Bangladesh).

Photography as a medium of art has broken new grounds as these pictures attest. From the time of Ansel Adams, who was an acclaimed genius of nature photography and produced his stunning prints in mere Polaroid negatives, photography now does not depend on the talent of the photographer alone but also on how sophisticated his equipment is. Ansel Adams' "zone photography" or Henry-Cartier Bresson's street photography or Margaret White Bourke's famous portrait of Mahatma Gandhi working at his spinning wheel or the Mexican photographer Moholy Nagi's self-portraits in nudes are master-

pieces, and the CPS exhibition was perhaps nothing like that, but still the photos there stole the hearts of many for, in the words of Ansel Adams, they proved that "art is the affirmation of life."

Tan Minh Nguen has taken a long shot at a distant mountain ridge through a triangular whole ("Teardrop") formed by stones of another mountain in the foreground, and the effect is stupendous: a slight jerking of the camera produced this beautiful pastiche of skill and art. So does the photograph titled "On the Way" by Mahfuzul Hasan Rana from Bangladesh produces the effect: a lonely man darting across a bridge in the falling light of the day. The red glow of the setting sun has put the shadow of the man in relief against an old ancient wall, and a true moment of life is being crystallised there.

Congratulations.

theweekthatwas

Vow to resist extortion

Businessmen at a rally at city's traditional commercial hub Khatunganj said that they would resist criminal activities and extortion in and around the area.

Amir Market Businessmen Welfare Association organised the rally on Sunday protesting vandalism and looting at the office of KIY Steel Mill, an unit of KDS group of companies, in Khatunganj.

Association president and UP chairman Idris Meah chaired the rally where CCCI director Mahbubul Alam spoke as chief guest. KDS chairman industrialist Khalilur Rahman, ward commissioner Nurul Haq and association general secretary Rezaul Karim Azad also addressed the rally. The rally was followed by a procession.

Youths urged not to smoke

National professor Dr Nurul Islam said many promising youths have met their tragic end of lives due to addiction towards smoking and drug. If alive, they could have played a vital role in the society, he said.

Dr Islam, who is also the founder of Adhunik and vice-chancellor of University of Science and Technology in Chittagong (USTC), was speaking as chief guest on the occasion of World Anti-Tobacco Day on Saturday. He urged the youths not to squander their talents, valuable times and money in smoking that wreak havoc to their lives and their families.

City Adhunik president Prof Ranjit Kumar Chakraborty presided over the discussion held at the USTC auditorium. Chief sub-editor of Dainik Purbokone Iskander Ali Chowdhury, USTC's honorary treasurer Dr Kazi Rafiqul Haq, Adhunik leaders Dr Nila Islam, Masum Kamal, Soumen Palit and Hasan Imam also addressed.

Newspapermen form action committee

The journalists, press workers and hawkers at a meeting formed an action committee on Saturday.

The leaders at the meeting also vowed to resist any move to bring out newspapers on holidays in Chittagong. They urged newspaper owners to declare holiday on May 15 on the

occasion of the Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) president Mostak Ahmad presided over the meeting. Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) president Shamsul Haq Haideri, CUJ joint secretary Nazimuddin Shyamol, treasurer Swapan Mallik, organising secretary Reaz Haider Chowdhury, Newspaper Press Workers and Employees Union president Mafizur Rahman, Hawkers' Union president Abu Taher, general secretary Daudul Islam, Hawkers' League president Abdul Latif and general secretary Ruhul Amin Ramzan represented the meeting on behalf of their organisations.

Photo exhibition of Faruk, Saidul ends

A three-day photographic exhibition was held at the auditorium of Chittagong Press Club from May 9 to May 11.

A total of 80 photographs comprising both black and white and colour shots by Mohammad Faruk and Saidul Azad, staff photographers of Daily Azadi and Daily Bir Chattagram Moncha respectively, were displayed at the exhibition.

Managing Editor of Azadi M A Malek inaugurated the exhibition as chief guest. Press club president Abu Sufian, general secretary Kalim Sarwar, CUJ president Mostak Ahmad, general secretary Shahid-ul Alam and Bir Chattagram Moncha Editor Syed Umar Faruk were present. The exhibition had drawn huge visitors.

Bay View School organises educational seminar

An educational seminar organised by Bay View School was held at the Ichhamati Hall of Hotel Agrabad on Saturday. School teacher Shafiqul Azam conducted the seminar attended by guardians, teachers and students. President of Women Entrepreneurs Association in Chittagong Monwara Hakim Ali was present as chief guest while school director Baishakhi Mendez delivered note of welcome.

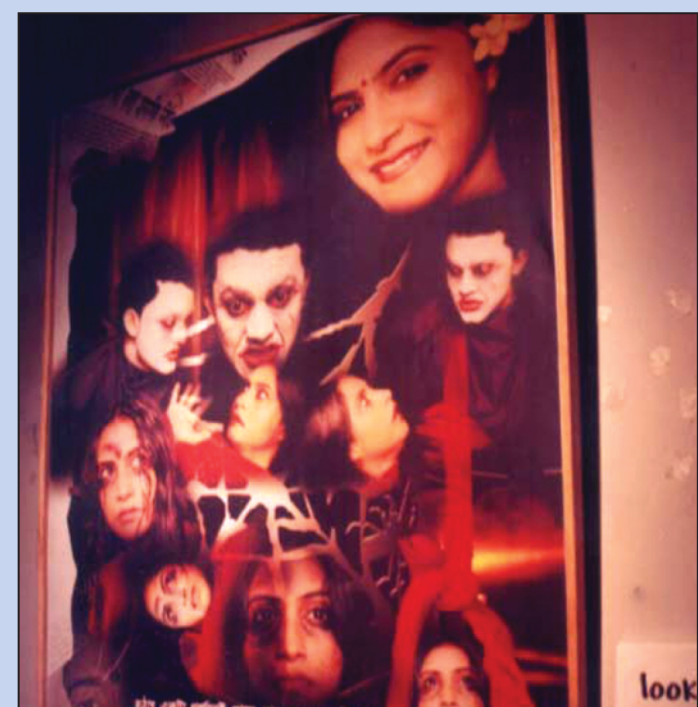
Principal Rashida Kapadia presided over the seminar. After the seminar, students of grade-IV and grade-V performed dance that enthralled the audience.

Banana seller killed in road accident

A young banana seller was knocked down by a speeding coaster at Prembazar of Chambal union under Banshkhali upazila on Monday. Mohammad Sagir, 14, son of one Abu Taher of village East Kaharghona, was killed when the Chittagong-bound coaster knocked him down at around 6.30pm. Sagir was returning home after selling banana at Chambal Bazar. Local people rushed him to the health complex where the doctor declared him dead.

Council of Teachers' Assoc held

The triennial council of Bangladesh Teachers Association Chittagong city unit was held at JM Sen Hall on Saturday with its president Emdadul Islam in the chair. Principal Quamrul Islam addressed the council as chief guest while Chittagong University senate



A digital canvas titled "Freedom of Life" by Morshed Himadri that portrayed oppression on women folk on display at the Visual Art Exhibition at Shilpakala Academy in the city. CU Film Society organised the two-day exhibition (May 9-10) on the occasion of birth anniversary of famous film maker Satyajit Roy.

member and vice president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Monjurul Amin Chowdhury and veteran academician A K M Fazlul Quader Chowdhury were present as special guests.

The speakers urged the teachers to play bold and active role in building human resources. They called for a people-oriented education system for greater development of the country.

Association general secretary Pradip Kanungo, leaders Abu Jafar, Syed Laqiatullah and Arun Chowdhury also spoke at the council.

Acting mayor visits Chaktai Khal

Acting city mayor Anwar Hossain visited the dredging and construction works of retaining wall along both banks of Chaktai Khal on Monday.

Chaktai Khal is known as the 'sorrow of Chittagong'. He urged the engineers and workers concerned to complete the work before the rainy season. Executive engineers of city corporation Abul Hasnat and Shamsul Alam were present among others at the time.