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CDA plans to demolish illegal, unplanned structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has planned to launch a massive drive to demolish illegal and unplanned structures that hinder expansion of city roads and intersections.

It also plans measures to expedite acquisition of land in this regard.

The CDA taskforce at its meeting last month decided to demolish structures around Bahodderhat and Muradpur intersections and adjoining areas, Agrabad Access Road, Sholoshohar Rail Gate No. 2, Reazuddin Bazar and Anderkilla areas.

The taskforce also decided to face legal suits filed against demolitions according to the suggestion of the lawyers to remove the structures in and around Sholoshahar Rail Gate No-2 area, sources said.

Owner of the market building got a High Court injunction against the demolition of the structure.

A good number of structures stands in the way of implementation of a project that CDA took up for expanding roads and developing some vital intersections in the city at a cost of Tk 8 crore, sources said.

The intersections to be developed are at Bahodderhat, Muradpur, Sholoshahar, Pathantuli and Anderkilla. Traffic jam has become a common scene in the intersections.

To that end, CDA had removed a good number of structures at Bahodderhat intersection recently according to the suggestions of the taskforce formed to help expand roads in the city, sources said.

A market building and graveyard on the east and west sides of the wide Sholoshahar-Bayezid Bostami road narrowed the entry point at Sholoshahar Gate No.2 intersection that connects CDA Avenue of Nasirabad in the south and Hathazari Road in the north, sources said.

With an impregnable gridlock round the clock, the road turns into a total mess at this point in front of the market. It adversely affects smooth vehicular movement to and from Chittagong Cantonment, Chittagong University and northern townships of the district, including Hathazari, Raozan, Rangunia, Kaptai and Fatickhhari, CDA Assistant Town Planner Shaheenul Islam Khan told the taskforce meeting.

The taskforce meeting with its President Ahmad Khalil Khan in the chair decided to hold open forum discussions with the members of the civil society as well as people from all walks of life in this regard.

It also took decision on determining a new alignment for the road stretching from Panchlaish interjection to Muradpur Rail Gate No. 1 with a width of 72-ft and fixing new alignment for Muradpur intersection with 100-ft radius.

Meanwhile, CDA identified some 80 risky buildings and 50 illegal structures for demolition as they were either hindering development of the city or posing a threat to the lives of the city dwellers.

Many of them had not followed the CDA approved designs while some were raised without approval from CDA, sources said. The practice was blamed on a section of dishonest inspectors.

It identified such buildings at Anderkilla and some other illegal structures (already constructed or under-construction) along the busy city street stretching from Reazuddin Bazar to Station Road.

The CDA will demolish those structures and take stern departmental as well as legal action against the concerned inspectors soon, sources said.

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A huge market building narrows down the entry point of wide Bayezid Bostami road to such an extent as to cause a constant traffic jam at Sholoshahar intersection.

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The pontoon of the ferry service recently introduced to facilitate renovation of rail-road bridge at Kalurghat, goes under knee-deep water during the high tides forcing the passengers to wade through it.

A cafeteria that serves substandard foods to CU students

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Underground cafeteria of the arts building of Chittagong University (CU) has been serving unhygienic and substandard foods to the students for long.

As many as 5,000 students have been facing problem in having their lunch during the class hours due to absence of a quality restaurant or cafeteria in the vicinity of the arts faculty.

Most of the students are to attend their classes with empty stomach. The authorities are indifferent to the problems.

The rice mixed with stones, human hair, feathers of poultry and sands are being served to the students at the cafeteria. As a result, they keep themselves away from having lunch in the cafeteria.

The floor of the cafeteria always remains dirty and damp as it is set up in the basement of the arts faculty.

In the rainy season, the cafeteria goes under knee-deep water as it has no protective wall.

Besides, stinks of a toilet just behind the kitchen pollute the atmosphere of the cafeteria.

Sumi, a final year student of the English department told The Daily Star that she had not taken lunch for even a day at the cafeteria in five years.

"Most of the time I carry some foods from my home to avoid the cafeteria," she said.

Ayub Ali, owner of the cafeteria, said he runs it without any subsidy from the university authorities. "We requested the administration, particularly the proctor, several times to construct a wall to protect the cafeteria from rainwater to keep it hygienic," Ayub said.

We also sought some subsidy to serve nutritious foods at the cafeteria, he added.

There is, however, no option for the students to take lunch at the faculty area except the underground cafeteria. Owners of the tea stalls known as "Jhupri" few yards away from the arts faculty serves snacks and fast food to the students during the lunch hour.

Chittagong University Central Students Union (Cucsu) cafeteria serves polau (delicious rice dish) and meat but their quality is also poor.

Most of the students take the contaminated fast food finding no alternatives. As a result, they often suffer from various stomach-related diseases, including diarrhoea and dysentery.

Fahad, a student of journalism department said that he did not have any food at the cafeteria or the "Jhupri" though he had to stay at the faculty till 5.00pm three days a week.

"It is better to stay with an empty stomach instead of having lunch at the cafeteria," he said.

Vice-Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury said that they have nothing to do with it due to shortage of fund.

the**week**that**was**

Thai co keen to build low-cost house

Big City Engineering Company Limited (BCECL) of Thailand on Sunday showed keen interest in constructing low-cost residential building for the low-income people in the port city.

A BCECL delegation made a proposal for the construction at a meeting with mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at the latter's office.

Ekarin Nil Sawaddi, Samak Deekhum, Piyanant Piamtunakiat, Jintana, Ubal Samart of BCECL, Shah Alam Babul of local Alam Trade International and other high officials of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) were present.

The city mayor welcomed the proposal and asked the engineers for a feasibility study on implementation of a low-cost housing project on some 200 kathas of CCC land at Nasirabad.

CCC took initiative for the low-cost housing project to provide housing facilities to some 1,000 low-income people.

Politicians without job blamed

Politicians who have no profession indulge in corruption, said State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Md. Nasir Uddin.

Politicians from different professions like engineering, medicine and law need not to indulge in corruption.

He said this while he was addressing as the chief guest a seminar titled, "Reinforced Anchored Earth Wall" at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong centre auditorium on Thursday.

The Technical Discussion and Seminar Committee of IEB, Chittagong and DIRD Private Limited jointly organised the seminar.

He lauded the role of engineers in building up the civilisation through constructing high-rise buildings.

He said, engineers, physicians and lawyers never retired as more they grew older more they gathered experience to contribute more to the development of the country and the nation.

IEB, Chittagong Chairman Engineer AKM Fazlullah was the special guest. DIRD Managing Director Engineer I Doulah and Khor Lee Chong, Technical Manager of Mehmia in Malaysia, presented the key-note papers with Engineer Md. Nurul Karim in the chair.

Workshop on market analysis ends

A two-day workshop titled as, "Marketing Access and Market Analysis Tools" ended on the Independent University of Bangladesh, Chittagong campus here on Thursday.

Organised by JOBS - a USAID project, and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), the workshop was held at CCCI auditorium.

CCCI President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury was present as chief guest at the certificate distribution ceremony.

He said that the ITC web-based market access and market analysis tools would help the importers and exporters of the country look for new markets abroad. It would also help the importers and the exporters know the uses of market facilities and the impediments to the access to different markets of the developed countries, he added.

He said that the On-line Trade Map that showed the prices of 5300 items of 180 countries as per their HS Code as well as different aspects of international trade flow of these items, including their market shares and unit value, would help the exporters.

CCCI Vice-President Monzoor Ul Amin Chowdhury, Directors Mahfuzul Haq Shah, Mahbubul Alam, Rafiqur Rahman and other officials of JOBS were present with JOBS Country Director Imran Shawkat in the chair.

Amirul, Shankar elected IFFAB president, secy

Amirul Islam Chowdhury Mizan and Amiya Shanker Barman were elected president and general secretary of the 12-member Governing Body of the International Freight Forwarders Association of Bangladesh (IFFAB) on Saturday.

The Governing body was elected for 2004-2006 at an election at the association office at Aziz Court. IFFAB Election Commission Chairman Kamal Hayat, members MA Alim and Engineer Rashid Ahmad Chowdhury conducted the election.

The office-bearers are First Vice-president: Md Swajjad Ullah, Vice-President: Quazi Mobashwer Ahmad Hashemi, Joint Secretary: Md Helal Uddin, Treasurer: Sekander Hayat Nawser and Assistant Treasurer: Mozammel Haq Chowdhury.

Members of the executive committee are Shahed Sarwar, Obayedul Haq, Khairul Alam Sujan, Ferdous Shahadat and Zahid Hossain Chowdhury.

Inter-polytech programming contest held

An Inter-polytechnic Programming Competition, first of its kind in the port city, was held at Halishahar in the port city on Sunday.

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) Teachers' Association General Secretary Engineer Mir Md. Saki Kauser inaugurated the competition as chief guest. Progressive Polytechnic Institute (PPI), Halishahar organised the competition at its auditorium.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony Saki Kauser emphasised the knowledge of Mathematics and English language for successful computer programming that would enrich the economy.

With PPI Principal MJS Koreshi in the chair, Engineer Mizanur Rahman Shawon and Engineer Shamima Akter Nila also addressed the function.

Students from different government and non-government polytechnic institutes of the city participated in the competition in eight groups.

Sando Gym's 30th founding anniversary

The 30th founding anniversary of Sando Gymnasium of the port city was observed on Thursday.

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ODAB, an association of NGOs, arranged a puppet show at Lalkhan Bazar in the city as part of its programme to raise awareness about violence against women.

On this occasion, a grand reception was accorded to 33 body builders who won body building competitions at home and abroad from different clubs (gymnasiums) of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati.

CCC Commissioner Alhaj Zahirul Alam Dobhash was the chief guest at the reception ceremony held at the Muslim Institute auditorium while social worker Bholanath Bishwash was present as the principal speaker.

Founder of Sando Gymnasium and Joint Secretary of Bangladesh Body Building Federation Monotosh Gosh presided.

SASC anti-smoking campaign begins

The School Education Programme, an anti-smoking campaign, launched by Students Anti-Smoking Committee (SASC) in collaboration with British American Tobacco Bangladesh, was held with pomp and grandeur at Chittagong Collegiate School here on Wednesday.

The programme that aims at creating awareness among the students, particularly those of class eight, nine and ten, about deadly impacts of smoking, began at the school auditorium with the spontaneous participation of huge number of students at 2.00pm.

Quiz competition, screening of audio-visual clips and a 25-minute drama on anti-smoking were the main features of the programme. SASC Founding President Ali Neazat and Assistant Headmaster of Chittagong Collegiate School Ahsan Ullah Bhuiyan spoke at the programme with SASC President Aslam Shihir in the chair.

The School Education Programme would be held in 15 schools of the country, including