

SUSTAINABLE URBAN INTEGRATED TRANSPORT PROJECT

Unep picks Ctg as potential city

ABDULLAH - AL MAHMUD

Chittagong has been selected as one of the five 'potential pilot cities' from Asia and Latin America for the Sustainable Urban Integrated Transport (SUIT) project of United Nations Environment Programme (Unep).

The SUIT aims to assist cities in developing countries to address the rapid growth in the transport sector through an integrated system of Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) and Non-Motorised Transport (NMT).

A turn-key-ready blueprint (framework) will be developed under the project in the five 'potential pilot cities' for establishing a BRT-NMT system that would provide sustainable,

reliable and affordable public transport with proven and accessible technology in urban areas.

Unep will secure funding to the tune of 4.334 million US dollar to cover the first phase of the project scheduled for 48 months, sources said.

Unep on August 1 in a fax message asked the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) to participate in the SUIT project.

It also asked the CDA to submit an official letter to its office in Paris in this regard by August 26.

Accordingly, the CDA furnished the Unep Paris office within the deadline with a report on the status of the current transport system and management, sources said.

Earlier, CDA secured no-

objection and consent on its intended participation in the project from the Ministry of Housing and Public Works on August 15.

The SUIT would provide technical support for capacity building to concerned authorities and assist in information collection and synthesis for implementation of the BRT-NMT system, Unep sources said.

The blueprint for integrated BRT-NMT system includes descriptions of transport routes, infrastructure, technology and financing options, as well as a thorough public consultation process taking into account the environmental and social considerations, said the sources.

"To provide Unep with information about the on-

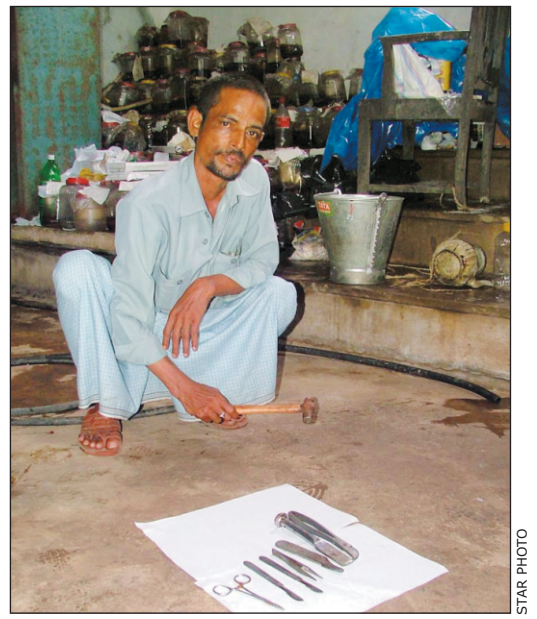
going or planned projects aimed at improving the transport system, CDA referred to the Long Term Strategies for Traffic and Transportation of Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan (CMMP) of 1995," said CDA Chief Engineer Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin.

"Under the integrated transport system (BRT-NMT) there would be separate corridors for motorised public vehicles and non-motorised transports like bicycles and rickshaws," he said.

BRT-NMT system would have separate arrangements for realising fairs and it would ensure a safe and comfortable journey by any public transport, he added.

Autopsy building needs autopsy

An intoxicated Nepal uses a carpenter's hammer, a dao, a chisel to cut bodies



The morgue building of the Chittagong General Hospital, left, and Nepal Chandra Das, the lone operator at the mortuary.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The area stinks of rotten human flesh and blood that stains the floors and walls of the building of the sole mortuary in the port city.

On the door a board reads 'Autopsy room, the place where death delights to serve the living'.

Nepal Chandra Das, the only dome (operator) at the mortuary, approaches the dirty three-room mortuary situated downhill from the Chittagong General Hospital.

In one of the rooms, lies a body of a child, killed in a road accident the day before. Nepal had already cut open the body and the doctor performed the autopsy on it but the opening was yet to be stitched back.

For Nepal, this has been a routine job for the last 20 years and he was not at all worried to cut open the young lad for it only required an old corroded

surgical blade provided by the authorities. Nepal is worried about other aspects of his job, namely when he is asked to open up the head of a human being. The middle-aged dome says he is to remain 'fairly intoxicated' when detaches a skull. Because, he said, the hospital authorities provided him with a carpenter's hammer, a dao (country knife) and a commercial chisel to do the job.

This is the scenario at the only mortuary of Chittagong, where on an average more than 30 bodies are brought for autopsy a month. There is no air-conditioner or freezer to preserve the bodies. Within hour of arrival here, the bodies start to rot and often relatives of the victims receive the rotten bodies.

In the absence of an autopsy table, bodies are kept on the blood stained floor which hardly remains free from germs. An obnoxious smell very often makes the

concerned persons sick, said the students and doctors of forensic medicine department of Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

They have been demanding a modern mortuary or at least one that gives some respect to the dead.

The health ministry approved a project of Tk 4 crore to construct a building for a modern mortuary on the CMCH premises under the Forensic Medicine Department. The project mysteriously came to a halt in June after completion of the first floor of the six-story building.

Dr Md Hasanuzzaman Bhuiyan, head of the Forensic Medicine Department of CMCH, said the government steps to modernise the department, including Tk 28 lakh for equipment, have been withdrawn for reasons unknown.

Dr Pradip Kumar Chowdhury, a lecturer at the

forensic medicine department, said 'It becomes completely intolerable when a decomposed body is brought for postmortem and the experience of performing autopsy on such a body on such a condition is simply horrible.'

Besides, it lacks in apparatus as well as light and space, he said. The third and fourth year students are the worst sufferers when some 70 to 80 are to attend classes in such a small, dark and unhygienic room of the morgue, he added.

The mortuary, which was formerly under the civil surgeon, has been used by the CMCH for academic and other purposes.

The mortuary, built during the British reign, has been used for performing postmortem of the bodies without any repair.



Artist Professor Monsoor Ul Karim visits the painting exhibition of artists Misti and Shimla at the Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Sunday.

STAR PHOTO

theweekthatwas

Strategy a must for garment sector

Business leaders at a function on Saturday emphasised formulation of a strategy for the garment sector to face challenges of post Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA) era.

Addressing at the opening ceremony of a five-day training on "Method of Production Management for Garment Factories," they also stressed on developing skill and increasing quality products to withstand the stiff competition Bangladesh facing after the phasing out of MFA since January 1 this year.

Association for Overseas Technical Scholarship (AOTS) of Japan, organised the training course in cooperation with JUKI Corporation, Japan, JUKI Singapore

(Pte) Limited and JUKI Bangladesh Limited.

Mohammed Abdus Salam, First Vice President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) was the chief guest at the function. Muhammed Nurul Islam, Honorary consul general of Japan attended as the special guest.

AOTS representative Dr AKM Moazzem Hossain and Kokichi Shirota, manager of JUKI Singapore Limited, also addressed the session with Mohammed Zakaria Bhuyan, chairman of JUKI Bangladesh Limited, in the chair.

Cuet Programming Contest

The seventh Intra-University

Programming Contest-2005 was held at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) on Saturday.

'Cuet Agradut' comprising Krisanu Dutta, Shakil Ahmed and Mohammed Didarul Alam Chowdhury became champion while 'Cuet Matrix' comprising Mohammed Mahbubul Alam, Eftekharul Islam and Mohammed Byezid runner up.

'Cuet Prothikrit' comprising Rassel, Ashis and Shubroto was placed third in the competition organised at the university computer Lab by Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Department.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mir Shahidul Islam was present as the chief guest at the closing ceremony with CSE Department Chairman Prof Dr Tazul Islam in the chair.

A total of 11 teams contested the competition. Mohammed Shamsul Arefin of CSE Department was the

chief judge.

Prof Dr Shyamol Kanti Biswas, dean of the Engineering Department and CUET Teachers Association General Secretary Mir M Saki Kawser were present at function.

Tree plantation at CU

The Rover Scouts of Chittagong University launched a tree plantation programme on the Physical Department premises on Saturday.

Vice-Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury in his speech as chief guest underscored the need for tree plantation for maintaining ecological balance side by side with adding to the natural beauty of the earth.

He also called for taking care of the trees after plantation. The VC lauded the role of Rover

Scouts, members of the university BNCC and other students for bringing around 500 acres of the 1300 acres of land on the campus under tree plantation.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammed Shamsuddin, also chairman of the CU Rover Scout, presided over the function. Acting Registrar M Idris Miah, Rover Scout Commissioner of Chittagong Professor Tayob Chowdhury and ASM Rakib Koreshi of Physical Department also spoke.

USTC MBA committee formed

A 23-member executive committee of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) MBA Association for 2005-2007

was formed.

The convening committee at a meeting on Sunday approved the 23-member committee with Khondaker Arshad Hossain and Engineer Mohammad Mozammel Haque as president and secretary general.

The meeting was held at the association office at Rahman Plaza of Lalkhan Bazar with convener Md Matin Mia in the chair. Abul Hasan, Habibur Rahman, Arifa Jabin, Mousumi Saha and Maruf-Ul-Alam addressed the meeting.

CWE workshop

Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs on Monday organised a daylong training workshop as part of preparations for participating in the next international trade fair effectively.

Export Promotion Bureau Director Faridul Hasan was the

resource person at the workshop organised with the assistance of SEDF at the Karnaphuli Hall of Hotel Agrabad.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the workshop as the chief guest Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Senior Vice-President SM Nurul Huda emphasised clear knowledge of trade language, tariff and trade policy for effective participation in international trade fair.

Chamber directors Nasir Uddin Chowdhury and Mahfuzul Haq Shah were special guests with CWE President Monwara Hakim Ali in the chair.

Protect consumers' right

The Kreta Swartha Sangrakshan Committee (Consumers' Right

Protection Committee) Chittagong in separate memorandums demanded civic amenities, adulteration-free food items and check fraud in weight.

The committee made these demands in separate four memorandums submitted to Chittagong Wasa, Power Development Board (PDB), Chittagong region, BSTI Chittagong and Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI).

The memorandums were handed over to PDB, Chittagong Chief Engineer Quazi Bashiruddin Ahmed and BSTI, Chittagong Deputy Director Shawkat Osman. Member (Administration) of Chittagong Wasa received the memorandum on behalf of the chairman while Chittagong chamber secretary Osman Gani Chowdhury received the memorandum on behalf of the CCCI President.



Winners of the Prothom Alo Alokito-Star Ship-Natua Juktir Utsab 2005, a debate competition, pose for a photograph with the guests at the concluding ceremony at the Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Thursday.



Visitors crowd the three-day real estate fair that ended at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Chittagong centre on Saturday. Scintilla Limited, an event management firm, organised the fair.



The GPA-5 achievers of Dr Khastagir Govt Girls High School receive crests from Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman at a ceremony on the school premises on Thursday.