



Station Road before eviction drive, left, and after eviction drive, right.

Eviction drives make life easy in port city

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The port city wears a pleasant look with congestion-free streets and sidewalks, thanks to the joint drives launched on January 17 by Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) to streamline the traffic and public movement.

The law enforcing agencies have already evicted occupants from all the footpaths while continued their drives knocking down illegal structures that narrowed down the city streets alarmingly.

To make the streets congestion-free all the illegal bus stands have already been removed from the city centre.

The CMP traffic department is also planning measures to streamline the movement of city service buses and develop the city roads with fencing and bus bays and lane markings in the busy road intersections, said the sources.

Gate No. 2, and Prabartak intersection during the last five days.

The illegal structures on the CDA acquired land have been hindering expansion of roads at those areas for decades, said the sources.

CDA also demolished illegal

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drive under "Operation Safeguard Civic Right" with the assistance of CCC and CMP.

Erected on the footpaths and drains, these shops also encroached on a remarkable portion of the busy roads.

The makeshift shops and vendors also cheat people with copied and lower quality goods while those occupying the footpaths in front of Municipal School sell adult video CDs to ruin the school goers.

CCC demolished around 6,000 illegal structures at Bayezid Bostami Road, Sholoshahar

structures hindering road expansion at Sadarghat area yesterday.

Magistrate Tahera Ferdous led the drive in presence of CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhther Uddin and Authorisation Officer Engineer Fazlul Karim.

CMP traffic department on Sunday identified two abandoned lands, one belonging to AK Khan industrial group at AK Khan Gate and the other to Aroma Tea Limited of Bangladesh Tea Board near Glaxo factory of the City Gate area, said the sources at traffic department.

CMP has written to CDA seeking the land to set up terminal for inter-district buses of Dhaka-Chittagong route.

Meanwhile, CMP held a meeting of Road Transport Committee (RTC) for determining the routes of city service buses in the city yesterday.

Representatives from all the authorities concerned, including CDA, CCC, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority

(BRTA), Transport Owners Association, Transport Workers Association, CMP Traffic Department and two members of the civil society attended the meeting with CMP Commissioner in the chair.

"No route has so far been determined for the city service buses in the port city but the authorities concerned issue license to them," said CMP DC Abu Sufian.

"Determining of routes and sealing capacity will help control the traffic movement more smoothly with much less manpower," he added.

Moreover, traffic department requests CDA to set up fencing at eight points in the city.

They are GEC, Sholoshahar, Muradpur, Bahudderhat, New Market, Agrabad, Badamtali, Customs and Chittagong port Jetty No. 3 area.

The fencing will prevent rickshaws and vehicles from creating traffic jam in the city, sources said.

Lack of streetlights encourages anti-socials

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Many streets and alleys plunge into darkness as soon as dusk descends on the port city for lack of streetlights, creating fear among the pedestrians as well as passengers.

The absence of streetlights, a common sight for long, only favours the anti-social elements and criminals much to the fear and concern of the pedestrians and commuters.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), several months ago, identified 80 points without streetlights in the port city as the most vulnerable to snatching or attacking rickshaw and other passengers.

Operating through syndicates across the city, the muggers prey on the pedestrians or passengers on the roads under Kotwali Police Station at Badsha Mia Chowdhury Road, Surson Road, Chittagong College to Parade Corner, Bangla College to Gani Bakery, Jamal Khan Moor, Shaheed Saifuddin Khaled Road, Kadamtali to Railway Public School, Tigerpass to Kather Banglo, Central Railway Building (CRB) area, Tin Poler Matha to Chitteswari Moor via Nasirin Bhaban, Gulzar Cinema to Chitteswari Moor (near Chittagong Medical College Hostel), Ashraf Ali Road to Avoymitra Ghat Road in Feeringee Bazar, Fisheryghat to Jalilganj and Iqbal Road of Patharghata, Kazir Dewry to Lalkhan Bazar, and Outer Stadium area.

There is no streetlight in most of these areas while a few lights were found damaged in some areas.

Commuters usually try to avoid these areas fearing the possibility of snatching.

Rafiqul, a rickshaw-puller, alleged he was victim of snatching thrice in last two months while going through Badsha Mia Road

and Chitteswari Moor.

"I think streetlights are badly needed on the roads especially in Surson Road, Chitteswari Road or CRB area as there is a few shops or other commercial establishments in these areas and the places are relatively quiet," he added.

Prabal, a resident of CRB area, said he usually takes CNG

Dhebarpar Lane, Link road adjoining Dewanhat Over Bridge and Boubazar Kancha Raster Matha.

Sajjadul Karim, a student who live in Agrabad T&T Colony, said snatchers and drug users sometimes damage the streetlights to carry their criminal activities easily.

CCC neither monitors condi-



Surson Road wears an eerie look in absence of streetlight.

auto-rickshaw to cross the area at night only to avoid snatching.

These aforesaid areas are also known as safe haven for the drug users and peddlers and the sex workers.

CMP Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Kotwali Zone Abu Baker Siddique said drug peddlers and sex workers take advantage of the darkness in the areas like CRB, Outer Stadium and Stadium Road adjoining to Chittagong Club.

Addicts take drugs in groups beside the electric poles and dustbins or on the footpaths at CRB and Outer Stadium areas at night.

The risky roads without streetlights under the Double Mooring Police Station are Agrabad T&T Colony to Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital, Upahar Cinema to Lucky Plaza, Lucky Plaza to Beparipara, Banani Complex to

the streetlights nor they do repair the damaged lights, he added.

There are no streetlights in Rubi Gate area, Sher Shah Shaheed Minar Police Box, KDS Textile Gate, Bayezid Fire Service, Raufabad Colony, Amin Jute Mill Gate, Bangladesh Forest Research Institute area, Burma Colony and Hamjorbagh Moor under Bayezid Police Station.

During the outage these areas become dangerous for the pedestrians while cross the roads.

The officials concerned at the CCC Electric Department refused to talk to The Daily Star on the issue.

Executive Engineer Md Shahidullah, however, suggested The Daily Star correspondent to write to him seeking his interview for comment on the issue.

the week that was



Subhra Sen and her group perform at a dance programme titled 'Bharat Natyam' organised by Srishti at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) auditorium on Friday.

STAR PHOTO

Free eye camp in Patiya

A five-day free eye medication camp concluded at Patiya upazila in the district on Wednesday.

Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Centre (CETC) organised the camp in cooperation with Ovian Club and World Vision Patenga unit at two villages in the upazila.

Around 1,000 poor patients received the medication while another 100 were medicated through surgeries.

A group of doctors led by CETC Eye Specialist Dr Prabir Kheyang and Dr Rifat Akter provided treatment to the patients.

Julha Union Parishad Chairman

Rafik Ahmed was the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony held on Sunday with Social Worker Mohammed Ali in the chair.

Ovian Club President Subir Das, General Secretary MA Hashem, Sher Ali, MA Sukkur and Shahadul Haq were present.

DIIT distributes warm clothes

Teachers and students of Daffodil Institute of IT (DIIT) in the port city on Wednesday night distributed warm clothes among the cold stricken people.

A total of 400 warm clothes were distributed among the poor at Chittagong Shaheed Minar, Laldighir

Par, Jail Road and Amanat Shah Mazar areas.

DIIT Deputy Director Faruk Islam was present during the programme.

He called upon the affluent section of the society to come forward and help the poor who are suffering from cold.

PHP Stocks Ltd starts activities

PHP Stocks and Securities Limited started its formal activities on Wednesday with a view to contributing to the capital market.

PHP Group Chairman Sufi Mizanur Rahman presided over the inaugural ceremony at head office of PHP Group at Agrabad commercial area in the city.

Mizan in his speech said the firm will safeguard the interest of the common investors of the capital market.

We will display the monitor of Dhaka Stock Exchange side by side with that of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) to help the investors in business at both the bourses at a time, he said.

Managing Director Akther Parvez Chowdhury said investors will be facilitated with SMS-based trading to sell and buy shares staying at home.

The 24-hour IT department will provide the investors with technical support and the PHP Stocks will encourage the highest investor with attractive prize every month.

Chittagong Press Club President Ali Abbas, General Secretary Ejai Yusufi, acting Chief Executive of Chittagong Stock Exchange Atikuzzaman, and

Director of PHP Group Ali Hossain Chowdhury addressed the ceremony.

Tribute paid to Dr Jahangir

Leaders of Chittagong Newspaper Hawkers' Union and Samity paid tribute to the late Dr Mohammed Jahangir.

The Union and Samity jointly organised a condolence discussion to mourn the death of Dr Jahangir, a philanthropist, on Wednesday.

They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Quality education stressed

An orientation programme of spring semester was held on the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Chittagong campus on Monday.

Speakers in the ceremony stressed the need for proper and regular study for a better result from the semester.

IUB is committed to maintain quality educational, they said.

IUB, Chittagong campus Coordinator Prof Syed Saifdar Haq presided over the programme while Prof M Nuruzzaman, Prof Tahli Azim, Faculty member Abdul Kaiyum Chowdhury and Assistant Proctor Rashid Ahmed Chowdhury spoke at the programme.

Later, a video presentation on the university was screened in a multimedia projector and a discussion on educational method, and rules and regulation of the university was also held.

Safe road for children demanded

Chander Hat, an organisation working for the children and youth, formed a human chain in the port city on Friday demanding safe road for the children.

Chander Hat Chittagong unit organised the event in front of Chittagong Press Club. A large number of children participated in the programme.

Terming roads in front of different schools a

'threat' to children, they blamed unskilled drivers, mismanagement in traffic control system and lack of awareness of the people for the rise of road accidents.

They also urged the administration to construct flyover, foot over-bridge and speed breaker in front of all schools in the port city to avert any mishap.

The organisation's General Secretary Iftekhar

Uddin Ahmed Jaber presided over the rally. Jamal Khan Ward Commissioner and Nirapad Sarak Chai Chittagong unit President MA Naser, General Secretary Safiq Ahmed, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) General Secretary Reaz Haider Chowdhury, social worker Mohammed Shafiqul Alam, Mahmudul Hasan Nizami and Ershadul Alam spoke at the human chain.



Students of Nasirabad Govt Boys School form a human chain on Saturday protesting a road accident that left two female guardians dead in front of the school gate on Wednesday.