

CDA, CCC at loggerheads as hill cutting goes on

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

three to four years ago when Bela officials might have not thought even in their imagination that a semi-government body like the CCC will appear as one of the major protagonists of the plundering of hills in near future. Unlike other city corporations, CCC has entered the lucrative business of real estate and apartment building at the expense of natural and lovely hills of the port city. When the CCC started flattening hills few months ago at many city areas like Khulshi, Pahartali or Bayezid Bostami and even published advertisements offering plots, the CDA mysteriously kept its eyes wide shut. Such uncanny acts of inhibition by CDA has no doubt encouraged the CCC to stretch further its so-called 'autonomous' power and influence. The CDA, however, has sometimes served a cliché warning through newspaper that any organisation or individual must obtain its prior permission before cutting hills. On the other hand, whenever questions were raised about the hill cutting, the CCC officials took no time to claiming that "CCC is an autonomous body and hence it doesn't require permission from any other government organisation for hill cutting or other activities whatsoever within its territory."

The concerns of the civil society as well as people here have

The survey was published about



A hill at the City Gate area in Pahartali being flattened by a housing company.

started to see a ray of hope after the non-party caretaker government led by Fakhruddin Ahmed took over power in January.

The CDA this time came up with a realistic action when they stopped flattening of hills last week at Bayezid Bostami area by the CCC. Tipped off, a CDA team demolished few makeshift structures and forced the CCC contractors to withdraw their bulldozers and labourers.

Earlier the CDA served notices to the CCC, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury and others.

Despite such actions, hill cutting is still going on, albeit at low scale, at Amin Jute Mill, Raufabad Colony, Sholoshahar and few other city areas.

CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin said the CDA is determined to develop the port city in a planned way and preserve its natural beauty, especially the hills.

He said no one, even the CDA employees, will be spared if they are found responsible for the hill cutting or for violation of the Building Construction Act.

Bricks, Bengal Bricks, ASB Brick Works, Khulshi Brick Field, MB Brick Works & Begum Brick Works, Chittagong Brick Field Works Ltd, Setara Begum and other, Mohammad Abul Kalam and others, Syed Mohammad Azam Uddin, Mohammad Yusuf, Engineer Abdur Rashid and Khokon.

Sources said the CCC planned to develop a housing project titled "Lake City Housing" near Foy's Lake under Bayezid Police Station and flattened several hundred acres of hills in this connection.

The CDA has started action against individuals and organisations involved in hill cutting in violation of the Building Construction Act 1952 (Amended 1990), sources said.

The authority, in this regard, suspended three building inspectors on February 18 for negligence in duties and irregularities.

The CDA also identified around 30 influential people and organisations, including the CCC, and filed 20 cases so far. The accused are:

Lake View Housing Society, Purabi Housing, Shatabdi Housing, Mohanagar Housing, Nandan Housing, Sagarika Housing, Chowdhury Estates, Chattogram Cooperative Housing Society, Haq Bricks, Meher

the week that was

Contribution of Waheedul Haque recalled

Speakers at a meeting in memory of veteran journalist and Tagore song specialist Waheedul Haque said his objective journalism and fair cultural practice will be the source of inspiration for the new generation.

They called on all to follow his ideals to build a better society.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) organised the meeting at its office on Thursday.

CUJ General Secretary Reaz Haider Chowdhury, Chittagong Press Club President Ali Abbas, General Secretary Ezaz Yusufi, former President Obaidul Haq, CUJ former president Mohammed Yusuf, M Nasirul Haq, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalist (BFUJ) Vice President Omar Kaiser, Joint Secretary General Asif Siraj and Member Nazim Uddin Shyamal spoke at the meeting. CUJ President Shahidul Alam presided.

They also prayed for salvation of his departed soul.

Int'l Women's Day observed

Speakers at a discussion urged the people to create an atmosphere in every sectors of the society so that women can prove themselves efficient through competition without facing any discrimination.

They emphasised establishing women's rights in society through eradicating all sorts of discrimination they face.

They were addressing a discussion on the occasion of International Women's Day, organised by Nirmal Foundation, a non-government organisation, at its office on Thursday.

Mahila Parishad, Chittagong chapter President Nurjahan Khan was the main speaker at the meeting with executive director of the foundation Dr Syed Didarul Mumin Rubel in the chair.

Journalist Daisy Moudud, women entrepreneur and chairperson of K Mark Nasrin Sarwar Kumkum, foundation finance director Ehsanul Hoq Chowdhury, chief programme organiser Nurul Absar Talukder and programme organiser Shaiful Azam Chowdhury spoke.

The speakers said social values will not be established without removing the discrimination between man

and woman.

Slums safe haven for use of drugs

Speakers at a discussion said the slum areas in the port city have become a safe haven for production, sale and use of drugs and children in these areas are easily being addicted to the deadly drugs.

They were addressing a seminar on 'Verifying the Condition of Taking Drugs by the Children', organised by Ghastul, a non-government organisation, at Chittagong Press Club on Thursday.

Bureau Chief of bengali daily The Bhoror Kagaj Omar Kaiser moderated the discussion where additional director of Narcotics Control Department, Chittagong Kabir Uddin Ahmad, executive director of Elmajesmin Sultan Paru, Aftabur Rahman Jafri of Ghasful and Advocate Uttara Dev Chowdhury addressed.

They also prayed for salvation of his departed soul.

Ansar-VDP rally held

Director General of Bangladesh Ansar and VDP Major General M Akbar Akbar urged all to work hard and sincerely for building a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

He was speaking as chief guest at a rally of ansars and VDP members on Foy's Lake premises on Saturday with Ansar-VDP Director (Training) Col Faruk Ahmed in the chair.

Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Md Mokhlesur Rahman, Deputy Inspector General of Police Md Amir Uddin and Police Super Md Quamrul Ahsan were present as special guests. District Adjutant SM Labur Rahman also spoke at the rally.

Arround 2,200 ansars and VDP members attended the rally.

CPS observes founding anniversary

Chittagong Photographic Society (CPS) observed its 24th founding anniversary on Saturday.

CPS life member and veteran photographer Mortaza Toufiqul Islam was the chief guest at the



Office-bearers of Old Faujians Association (OFA) pose for photograph with the guests at its annual general meeting at the auditorium of Chittagong Club on Friday.

ceremony with its committee chairman Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir in the chair.

Ansar Ali of the Fine Arts Department of Chittagong University, life member Shahidul Alam Qaderi and Shah Alam Babu were present as special guests.

CPS ad hoc committee co-chairman Md Shoukat Ali Islam, Member Secretary Suman Das, former president Moududul Alam, Nazimuddin Shyamal, Mukul Das, Sheikh Mohammad Musa, Rabindra Chowdhury, Shyamal Nath and Kutubuddin Chowdhury spoke at the ceremony.

Rabindra Sangeet Parishad confce held

The biennial conference of Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sammilan Parishad, Chittagong district chapter, and a competition were held on Thursday at the auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC).

Prof Anupam Sen and Tridib Chowdhury were elected president and general secretary of the new committee at the conference.

Shamsul Hossain, Shripa Dastider, Advocate Rana Das Gupta and Shahriar Khaled spoke at the conference.

In the Rabindra Sangeet competition, Debjyoti Bhattacharya, KomoGandha Datta and Swastika Dey won the first, second and third prizes respectively in the juvenile group while the winners in the general group were Monalisa Barua (first), Purabi Barua and Piyasi Mutsuddi (jointly second) and Kanta Dey (third).

Other office-bearers are Vice-



Visitors admire bangles and other items at Pakistani stall at the CITF.

NUR UDDIN ALMGIR

The Chittagong International Trade Fair (CITF) - 2007 gains momentum with a good number of visitors thronging the fair at Railway Polo Ground in the port city everyday.

The month-long fair began on February 15.

The participants expressed satisfaction over the turnout, sales and management of the fair. Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) arranged the fair to promote local products and expand markets abroad.

Participants from home and abroad have their products on display in 312 stalls -- mega stalls, pavilion and mega pavilions -- in the fair over an area of four lakh square feet.

Being the partner country, Pakistan has set up a special pavilion on the fair ground.

Thailand, the United States of America, Indonesia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, Iran and Korea are also participating in the fair.

The participants have showcased wide variety of products, including handicrafts, consumer products, food items, home appliances, garments, leather goods, tribal garments, electrical and electronic cables and goods, ceramic, aluminium,



Visitors throng the Chittagong International Trade Fair (CITF) at Railway Polo Ground.