

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DESIGN COMPETITION

Architecture students display an array of innovative designs

CITY CORRESPONDENT

"Bangladeshi architecture is now focused on the rich. Competition with focus on the poor is most welcome. It will encourage architects to do more for the rural population of our country," said Dr A Matin Patwari, vice chancellor, University of Asia Pacific (UAP).

He was speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Seventh International Students' Design Competition 2006 took place yesterday at the premises of UAP.

A total of 190 students of architecture from 38 countries, including Bangladesh, submitted innovative designs based on the theme 'A small sustainable sports centre that will serve as a focus for a poor community'.

Students of architecture from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), North South University, UAP, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology and other private universities thronged the exhibition hall to admire the innovative designs.

Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor, NSU, said that, such competitions should be held more frequently since competition in all fields brings out the best potentials of the people.

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designs of sports facilities, HOK, put emphasis on further initiatives for improvements of cricket facilities of Bangladesh. He said that sports can break barriers.

The top three awards were won by New Zealand, South Korea, South Africa and Hungary. Twenty-one designs selected for special display in Australia next month among which 5 are from Bangladesh done by architecture

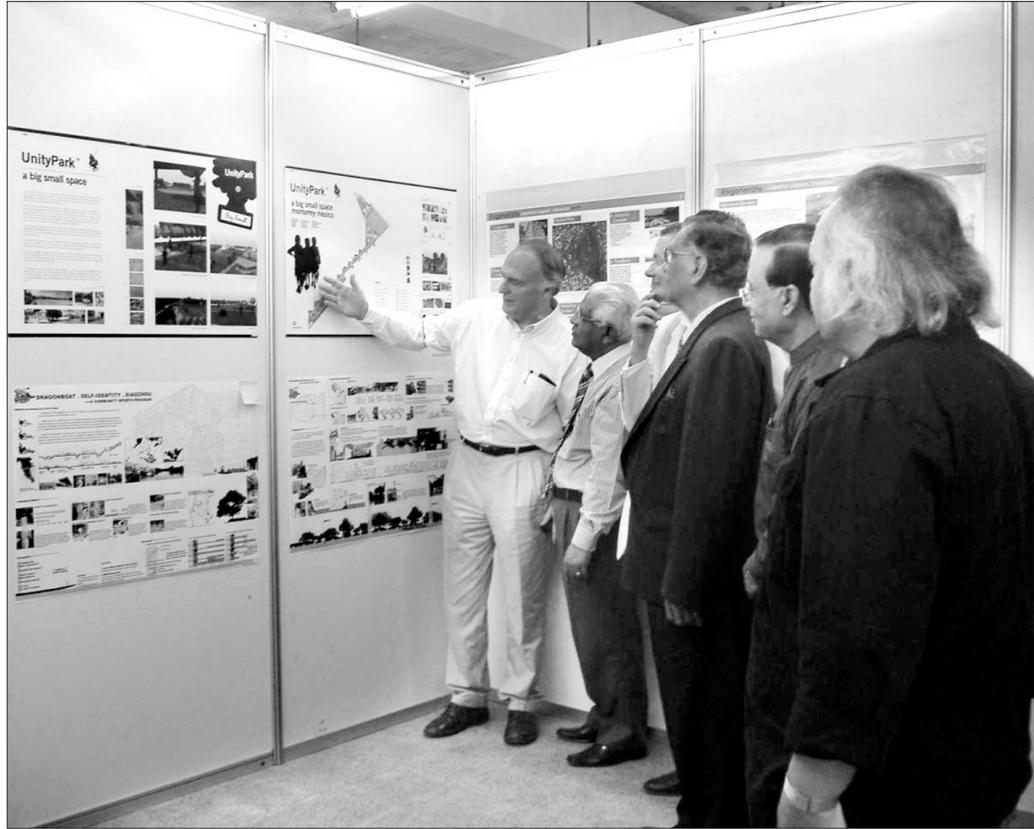
students of Buet.

The ceremony was jointly inaugurated by Dr AMM Safiullah, vice chancellor, Buet; Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi, vice chancellor, NSU and Dr A Matin Patwari, vice chancellor, UAP.

Also present were representatives of Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) Peter Davey, former editor of the Architectural Review; Geraint

John, specialist in designs of sports facilities, HOK; Prof Shamsul Wares, UAP and Mubassher Hossain, president of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB).

The competition was organised by CAA and hosted by IAB. The exhibition will continue till March 28, 2007 from 2pm to 8pm in the second floor of UAP at Dhanmondi.



Geraint John (left) explains an architectural design to the experts and visitors at the exhibition.

Unfair fare hikes crush

FROM PAGE 21 A traffic sergeant at Karwan Bazar was asked what he would do if a passenger complained about bus fare. He said, "I can't do anything because I wasn't provided with any approved fare chart or wasn't trained to deal with bus fare issues."

Golam Murshid Pintu, assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners' Association, told Star City that he did not have any clear idea of who is to monitor the bus fare issues. According to the rules, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority's (BRTA) duty is only to fix bus fares for each route.

However, BRTA should provide approved fare charts to bus services and it must be made mandatory for the bus operators to hang that chart in each bus so that the passengers are aware of the fares fixed by the government, added Pintu.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent failed to reach

Hamid Sharif, convener of Urban Transport Companies Association of Bangladesh for his comments on the ongoing anomalies regarding bus fares in the city.

On the Motijheel Duaripara route, a bus service named Karnaphuli has been overcharging its passengers. To travel from Duaripara, Mirpur 10 to Kazipara or Shewrapara, the bus service is forcing the passengers to pay for travelling upto Farmgate.

Furthermore, the bus service does not ensure seating against its tickets. Although it stops at every stoppage where local buses stop, it charges extra Tk 2 on each ticket

On Pallabi-Gulistan and Pallabi-Motijheel route, a route where the distance is almost the same, it was found that the two bus companies were following different fare charts.

On Motijheel/Jirani Bazar route, bus operators charge Tk 20 for a trip from Technical crossing to Jirani,

but shockingly, they charge Tk 25 for the return trip.

A BRTA official said, "Nobody lodged any complaint against any such irregularities to us. If anyone files any complaint, we will take steps against the bus services after investigation."

When asked if the BRTA is supposed to monitor the bus fares, he said, "No, it is not our responsibility. Fixing the fares according to the route plan is our only responsibility."

In 2002, two-stroke three-wheelers were phased out and around 3,000 minibuses and 1,400 CNG-run buses took their places to meet the growing demand of city commuters.

"Introduction of CNG-run buses has failed to reduce bus fares because transport management of the city was left unmonitored," The official observed.

Busy playground

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"Every day local boys play cricket on the ground. Aspiring cricketers do their net practice on the ground and in the evening many senior citizens have their daily walks," Abdullah said.

Mohammad Hanif, president of Bangladesh National Weavers Association also expressed his 'dissatisfaction' over the selection of the playground for the fair in which members of his association participate every year.

"We could not hold the fair at the national parade ground as there are other programmes there on the Independence Day. A site selection committee in fact chose the venue for which the police have also permitted," said Hanif.

The trend to hold various fairs on city playgrounds for months every year came to a halt in 2003 when the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) formally decided not to allow any event, other than sports, on the playgrounds. Even traditional Eid cattle markets have not been allowed on playgrounds ever since. Since the Public Works Department under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works maintains the T&T playground, it has allowed the event unilaterally.

A road of public suffering

FROM PAGE 21

digging the roads in the city, they do not explain the reason and mention the date for completing the job -- which is another violation of the guideline.

A Rajuk official said, "The service agencies never complete their work on time."

"Since PGCB is a government organisation, we cannot push it to complete its work within the specific time," added the official. Sirajul Islam, project director of PGCB, however said the work is taking longer to be completed as it is "too technical."

Rajuk and DCC have finally reached a conclusion over the road. According to their decision, DCC will first repair the portion of the road that was dug up by a private mobile phone operator with DCC approval. Rajuk will then repair parts of the road dug up by PGCB and Titas.

While these three agencies -- Rajuk, DCC, and PGCB -- bicker over the repair work of the road, the condition of the road has been getting worse day by day. Large holes appeared on different points the road. The trenches and diggings done by the agencies left the road too narrow for easy

movement of traffic.

The sufferings of people get worse if a vehicle is stuck in the holes or trenches causing immense traffic jam. This has been a common scenario on the road for over a year.

Unplanned road digging by utility service agencies on this road only added to the sufferings of the city dwellers, especially the locals. The diggings caused numerous nuisances for the locals including severe sewer and rainwater stagnation, dust hazard and unbearable bumpy rides on the road.

Ali Ahmed, a resident of Badda, said people of the area had been suffering for months due to the diggings. Tailbacks are now a daily matter on the road while holes and trenches filled with rainwater turn risky for its users. Furthermore, when it's dry, the area is covered with a cloud of dust.

Every now and then, vehicles and people fall in the holes and trenches on this road, said Hakim, another Badda resident.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

Table with TV channels and their schedules: News Bulletin, BTU, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL 1, BANGLAVISION.

Table with TV channels and their schedules: Ahonkar Channel i, ntv, CHANNEL 1.

Table with TV channels and their schedules: CHANNEL 1, BANGLAVISION, STAR PLUS.

Table with TV channels and their schedules: PICK OF THE DAY, SHALJONG, Bondi Shibir Theke, STAR PLUS.

Table with TV channels and their schedules: AXN, DISCOVERY CHANNEL, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, STAR WORLD.

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Table with TV channels and their schedules: STAR SPORTS, ESPN.