

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 30, 2007

Five-phase CDA drive to bring back past city heritage

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The massive drive launched by the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) against illegal structures and occupation or extension last week has created a great scope and hope for bringing back the past unique city settings.

The CDA officials said the drive will be implemented in five phases by July, enabling them to recover vast government land occupied by the grabbers under influence of power. But it will help make the journey of commuters and pedestrians comfortable and trouble-free in near future, they said.

The CDA had conducted a detailed survey of the structures in question in vast areas of the city before formally launching the phase-wise drive at Agrabad Access Road on May 24.

Sources said structures included hospitals, commercial buildings, clinics, shopping centres, malls, CNG refuelling stations, markets, restaurants, hotels, community centres, show rooms and high rise buildings.

"We summarised the survey under three categories so that effective actions can be taken with minimum hazards", said CDA Chairman Shah Md Akhtaruddin.

Sources said the first category illustrates about the organised illegal occupation of government and private land by the grabbers who have power and influence in the society.

The second category demonstrates the soft violation of setback rules within the limits of sunshade and cornices i.e. 0.5m to 20 inches from the face of the building. Such extensions are done to cover the sewage ducts, extended slabs used for balconies, extended lockers and diversified design of sunshade and louvers etc although not permitted by the authorities, they said.



Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) demolishes an illegal CNG refuelling station at Agrabad Excess Road under Phase-1 drive.

Akhtaruddin said the third category shows clear violation of setback rules having feeble respect towards the laws. The grabbers are obstinate, insolent and are used to violation.

"These violations are preconceived and predominantly governed by the influence and power. Therefore such cases of absolute violation need to be brought under penalty and dismantling," he said, adding we won't give in to any pressure or influence whatsoever and spare none who are found violators of the laws.

Under phase-1 around 185 illegal structures were detected along a stretch of 22-kilometre areas from Kathgar under Patenga Police Station up to Bahaddarhat Intersection under Chandgaon Police Station. Agrabad Commercial Area, Sheikh Mujib Road, Asian Highway, Agrabad Access Road extending from Port Connecting Road (PCR) to Badamtali, and Dhaka Trunk Road extending from Kadamtali to Olonkar Intersection via Dewanhat Overbridge have fallen in the 22km stretch.

The Phase-2 will cover Station Road extending from Chawk Bazar to Kalurghat Industrial Area via Bahaddarhat. And finally, the Phase-3 will cover residential areas of CDA like CDA R/A in Agrabad, CDA R/A in Chandgaon, Sugandha R/A etc; residential areas of housing and settlement department at Halishahar, and privately organised residential areas like Chittagong Co-operative Housing Society, Hill View Housing Society and others.

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the week that was

Prize giving ceremony of Premier College held

Prize giving ceremony of Chittagong City Corporation-run Premier University College was held at DT Road in the port city on Wednesday.

Chittagong Education Board College Inspector Prof Saleh Ahmed Patwary was the chief guest in the ceremony

with Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Chief Education Officer Prof Rawshan Akther Hanif in the chair.

He emphasised the need for extra-curricular activities of the students for their proper growth.

CCC Executive Engineer Mahfuzur Rahman was present as the special guest while the College Principal Prof Sudhir Bikash Dev, Prof Abu Bakar

Siddiqui Islam, Prof Abdus Sobhan, Prof Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan and Prof Mirza Mohammad Abdullah addressed the function.

Commodore Faruk takes over as CPA chairman

Commodore M Faruk took over the office of chairman of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) on Thursday, says a press release.

He served as director at the armed forces division before joining the CPA.

Commodore Faruk joined the Bangladesh Navy as a cadet in 1976 and was commissioned in 1979. He obtained BSC Engineering (Mechanical) degree from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1981.

He achieved PSC degree from Defence Services Command and Staff College in 1991 and received training on different courses at home and abroad.

He visited several countries including the United States of America, the United Kingdom and Germany to perform his professional duties.

Chittagong Club, Parkway Hospital sign MoU

Chittagong Club Limited and Parkway Hospitals Singapore Private Limited signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday.

The Parkway Hospitals is the organisation that owns and operates Mount Elizabeth Hospitals, Gleneagles Hospital and East Shore Hospital in Singapore.

The Club Chairman Quasim Chowdhury and the Hospitals Country Manager Jessica Sim signed the agreement on behalf of their organisations.

Following the agreement, the

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Supply of seasonal fruits is abundant in the port city but they have failed to attract optimum number of consumers due to high price and substandard quality of fruits.

The fruits -- mango, jackfruit, pineapple, lychee, palm and a number of other seasonal fruits -- come here from different parts of the country.

The two wholesale trading points for fruit in the city -- BRTC market for mango and Firingibazar for jackfruit, pineapple and local mango -- are now busy in unloading packs of fruits.

But the traders as well as the vendors expressed their disappointment over poor sale despite adequate supply and production of fruits this year.

Jackfruit and pineapple are coming from three hill districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts. These fruits grow well in Burighata, Marishya, Subhalong, Maini, Longadu of Rangamati and other areas of Khagrachari and Bandarban.

A big jackfruit was sold at Tk 20 to Tk 30 and a medium one at Tk 10 to Tk 15 in the wholesale market last week. But vendors in city streets or markets sold the same at Tk 100 to Tk 200 and at Tk 50 to Tk 80 respectively. Shamiran Das, a garment worker, said it is the season of jackfruit and there is an abundant supply in the markets but no sign of decrease in price.

The vendors said around 30 to 40 per cent of fruits perish during sale due to the drives of law enforcement agencies as they have no designated place or footpath to keep the fruits.

They are to make up the loss by selling rest of the fruits at a higher rate, said Rasul, a vendor at Bayezid market.

They also blamed the increased transport cost for the price hike.

Haider, a wholesale trader, said he bought a truck of jackfruits (1200 pieces) at a price of Tk 15 per piece at Marishya of Rangamati. He said he would incur loss due

to poor response from retailers.

Rasul said people don't buy jackfruit because of hot and humid weather.

Pineapple coming from Naniarchar, Burughata of Rangamati and other regions of hill districts were sold at Tk 5 per piece at Firingibazar on Sunday while the rate was Tk 15 to 20 in other city markets like Reazuddin Bazar and Karnaphuli Market.

The mangoes of poor quality have flooded the city markets while the traders charge higher prices for them, much to the frustration of the common consumers.

Only two popular genres of mangoes, Himsagar and Langra, from Kushtia,

Meherpur and other northern districts, are now on sale here but quality of both the types is not very good.

The wholesale rate of Himsagar and Langra is Tk 35 to Tk 45 per kilogram while retail price is Tk 60 to 70.

Some Langra mangoes of comparatively better quality imported from India, are sold at Tk 80 to Tk 90 in retail markets.

Shahnara Akther, a housewife at Reazuddin Bazar, said it is really difficult for her family to have taste of the popular summer fruits due to the higher prices.

Traders at wholesale BRTC Fall Mondi (Fruit Storehouse) at Station Road said excessive

transport cost forced them to charge higher price from the consumers.

Prices of 'Guti', a kind of mango from northern districts and fruits from different areas of Chittagong and hill districts are reasonable as they are sold at Tk 20 to Tk 40 per kg.

Juicy lychee is also far beyond the capacity of the middle class people as 100 pieces of lychee are now sold at Tk 200 to Tk 300 in the city markets.

The traders, however, said the price will be reasonable within a couple of weeks when various kinds of best quality mangoes from Rajshahi and other seasonal fruits start coming here.



The sellers arrange mangoes at a fruit godown in the port city.

the week that was

Hotel Agrabad, TOAB sign MoU

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the authorities of Hotel Agrabad and Tour Operators Association of Bangladesh (TOAB) on Thursday.

Manager (Sales and Marketing) of Hotel Agrabad AM Shahed Chowdhury and TOAB President Hasan Mansur signed the MoU on behalf of their sides.

Following the MoU, the TOAB will supply a list of members of the companies and agencies enlisted with the association and the Hotel authorities will offer them a special price to those guests on room rates on their products.

This agreement will remain valid until June 30 this year and after successful completion of the period and depending upon the result both the parties could extend it.

Manager (Personnel and Administration) of the Hotel HM Rafiqul Islam and other executives of the Hotel and TOAB were present at the signing ceremony.

members of the Club will get special discounts on the hospital bills and pre-treatment medical evaluation from doctors.

Dr Naznun Hoque, Wahid Malek, Dr Omar Faruque Yusuf, Aftab Rahim Chowdhury, Jamaluddin Ahmed, Mohammad Jafor Ali and Salim Abedin Chowdhury were present at the signing ceremony.

With the financial help from the UNICEF, around Tk 87 lakh is being spent every year while a total of 261 employees and officials have been working under the project, sources said.

They were addressing a workshop on 'Publicity of HIV/AIDS on Mass Media' at a city hotel on Thursday.

Advertising agencies Matra and Payakot jointly organised the workshop.

The speakers urged the countrymen to be aware of the diseases and play role to protect themselves from it.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Mokhlesur Rahman was the chief guest in the workshop with Civil Surgeon Dr Mohammad Abdul Jalil in the chair.

Islamic Foundation Director Joynal Abedin, Divisional Health Education Officer Khairun Basar Chowdhury, Chittagong Medical College Medicine Department Head Prof Provat Chandra Barua, Dr Sarfaraz Khan Chowdhury and District Education Officer Hosne Ara Begum spoke at the workshop.

Workshop on HIV/AIDS on mass media

Speakers at a workshop expressed concern as HIV/AIDS is spreading fast



Former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury speaks at a meeting organised in memory of journalist Akhter-Un-Nabi at the Chittagong Press Club



Artists of Thai Dance Troupe perform at the inaugural ceremony of three-day 'Thai Bazar' at Hotel Peninsula on Sunday. Royal Thai Embassy and Hotel Peninsula jointly organised the event.