

Most of Ctg roads unfit for traffic

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

With cracks and potholes, most of the roads on the periphery of 60sq kilometre Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) have almost become unfit for traffic due to lack of maintenance.

Although heavy vehicles like bus, truck and lorry can somehow manage to get away through the uneven roads, the smaller or more fragile transports such as rickshaw, CNG auto-rickshaw and car, run the risk of accidents.

The roads including lanes and by-lanes are also badly devastated and dilapidated one would surely wonder whether or not these are the roads of the port city, the commercial capital of the country.

The CCC has woken up with a Tk 25 crore project recently, but citizens here are really wary of the sincerity of its commitment.

A rickshaw carrying Parvin

Akhtar, a housewife in Kapasgola area under Chawk Bazar Ward, turned upside down in the blink of an eye the young rickshaw-puller was driving fast, apparently unaware of the danger of cracks on the road. Parvin was returning to her residence along with her five-year-old daughter from school. Both the mother and the daughter received injuries, with the kid having required to be treated at hospital.

"Due to the decrepit roads, it is very difficult for us nowadays to travel safely either to my daughter's school or market or other places in the city," she said.

Saif Chowdhury, a Jamuna Bank officer, are to endure bitter experience everyday while travelling from his Bakalia residence to office at Agrabad Commercial Area, thanks to the run-down roads.

"The city we live in was once an example to other cities of the country

for its good and clean roads as well as healthy environment. Now, it looks like a ghostly city and the condition of the roads are awesomely dangerous," Saif said.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed said the entire road communications of the city will collapse if the dilapidated roads are not repaired immediately.

"I get confused whether or not it is the second-most important city of the country."

The condition of roads at Bohaddarhat, Chandgaon, Muradpur, Badurtala, Kapasgola, Chawk Bazar, Sholok Bahar, Katalganj, Bakalia, Sholoshahar, Panchlaish, New Market, Chittagong College, Gani Bakery, Jamal Khan, SS Khaled Road, Majhirghat, Bangla Bazar, Madarbari, Sadarghat, Nalapara, Feeringi Bazar, Patharghata, Dewanhat, Chatteswari

(in front of Chittagong Medical College Hostel), Mehdibag, OR Nizam Road, Pahartali, Halishahar, Kattali, Barik Building, Monsurabad, Eidgah, Oxygen, Jalalabad, Bayezid Bostami, Dewan Bazar, and Chandanpura areas are beyond description.

CNG auto-rickshaw drivers often refuse the passengers to avoid the said dilapidated roads.

The CCC officials said the record downpour on June 11 and onwards coupled with waterlogging mainly caused the extensive damage of the city roads.

Acting Mayor M Monjur Alam said they couldn't repair the damaged roads timely for lack of adequate fund. He said the repair work will begin soon as the government has allocated Tk 25 crore in this regard.

Of 650 CCC roads, 430 have bitumen carpeting, 70 concreting and 150 are brick soling, sources said.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Most of the city roads have become dilapidated and unfit for traffic due to lack of maintenance. The picture was taken from DT Road in Madarbari area.

the week that was



Swapan Sen and his troupe perform dance at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) on Friday on the occasion of the Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti organised by Abashar Sangskritik Goshthi.

Workshop on music in psychotherapy held

Speakers at a workshop said music can play a vital role for mental refreshment and help keep both the body and the mind in sound condition.

They were addressing the concluding ceremony of a three-day workshop on 'Music in Psychotherapy and Psychodrama' organised by Bangladesh Therapeutic Theatre Institute (BTI) on Friday.

Chief reporter of daily Suprabhat Bangladesh M Nasirul Hoque was present as the chief guest at the ceremony with UTSA Executive Director Mostafa Kamal Jatra in the chair.

Joseph J Morino, a creative art therapist from USA, moderated the workshop.

A total of 23 participants from different professions including psychologist, psychotherapist, doctor, development worker, drama activist, students of Clinical Psychology department of Dhaka University and students of Drama and Dramatics department of Jahangirnagar University participated in the workshop.

Joseph in his speech said music is being used for the development of human values since long. At present it is widely and effectively used to cure mental disorder problem resulting from mental depression following serious physical injury, or to overcome the physical limitations of the persons with disability, he said.

'Resist corruption to save country'

The speakers at a discussion on Saturday urged all to come forward and

build up a united resistance against corruption in order to save the country. They also emphasised the need for creating mass awareness for establishing good governance in the society. They were addressing a discussion on 'End of Corruption: Policy for

Establishing Justice' at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) gallery. Chittagong Metropolitan Rotaract Club organised the discussion in association with Centre for Good Governance with Prof Salamat Ullah Bhuiyan of Chittagong University in the



Dr Anupam Sen visits a book stall at a book fair organised by Chittagong Academy on Sunday.



Eminent educationist Dr Anisuzzaman speaks at a seminar on 'Building a Democratic Society: Thoughts of Abul Fazal on Society' organised by Abul Fazal Mukta Buddhi Charcha Kendro at TIC auditorium on Wednesday.

CDA deadline to evict CCC illegal structures expires today

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The time of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) eviction notice issued as part of its drive against illegal structures to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) commercial firms and markets expires today.

Against the backdrop of the situation, CCC on Sunday has written a letter to the ministry for local government for asking CDA through the ministry of housing and public works to take decision jointly with it in this regard reviewing the legal aspects, sources said.

Both the CDA and the CCC will hold a meeting to come to a decision regarding the matter this week, they said.

"We will be able to settle the matter at the meeting," said a CCC official.

"None of the CCC commercial buildings have CDA approval. Since CDA claims its rules are compulsory for everybody for construction of such buildings, we are now ready to update the legal aspects of CCC buildings," he added.

Several CCC commercial and market buildings have encroached drains and footpaths ignoring the CDA provisions for urbanisation.

It prompted CDA to serve eviction notice against the CCC buildings under the first phase of its drive against illegal structures.

It also issued eviction notices to different hospitals, commercial buildings, clinics, shopping centres, malls, CNG refuelling stations, markets, restaurants, hotels, community centres, show rooms and high rise buildings, sources said.

Under phase -1 around 185 illegal structures were detected in 22 kilometre areas from Kathgar under Patenga Police Station to Bahaddarhat Intersection under Chandgaon Police Station. Agrabad Commercial Area, Sheikh Mujib Road, Asian Highway, Agrabad Access Road and Dhaka Trunk Road have fallen in the 22km stretch.

A CDA official on condition of anonymity said construction of any commercial building requires its prior approval as per building code while CCC waves aside the rules saying that it needs no such an approval for its installations.

Replying to the CDA eviction notice, CCC said it constructed the commercial and market buildings

following CCC Act 1982 that does'n say anything about such approval. CCC urged CDA to reconsider the notices to establishments that are income generating and development projects.

Demolition of these buildings will cause huge loss of CCC as well as the government, affecting several thousand owners and employees, said the CCC in its letter.

The markets CCC urged not to demolish included Bahodderhat Shopping, Chittagong Shopping Complex, Abdul Ali Shopping Arcade at Saraipara, CCC market at

CCC on Sunday has written a letter to the ministry for local government for asking CDA through the ministry of housing and public works to take decision jointly with it on eviction

Muradpur, Singapore - Bangkok market at Agrabad, Port City Complex at Lalkhan mouza, Chawk Super Market, GEC Intersection Building and the building adjoining Garibullah Mazar.

Several officials at CCC said as a service-oriented organisation CCC also requires CDA approval and should follow building code rules during construction.

They said both CCC and CDA are responsible for overall development of the port city.

Earlier, CDA served eviction notices against CCC structures, including Premier University Unit No 1 and 2 buildings, building in front of Garibullah Shah Mazar, market building at GEC intersection, which were constructed without CDA approval.

Though most of the notices went unheeded, CCC now plans to shift the educational institutes and markets at Prabartak Intersection elsewhere, said the CCC sources.