

CCC to construct six more foot overbridges

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will construct six more foot overbridges in the busy areas to check intolerable gridlock as well as to facilitate the smooth movement of pedestrians in the port city.

The CCC will invite tenders through newspapers from the interested private firms in this regard, sources said.

The overbridges will be set up at Agrabad Bandamkali intersection, Dewanhat intersection, in front of Bangladesh Women Association (BaWA) School, GEC Moor, Bahodderhat intersection and Colonel Hat Bazar according to the design of the CCC planners.

City dwellers have long been demanding to set up foot overbridges at different city points while there are only three overbridges in New Market, Reazuddin Bazar and Fakirhat areas set up by CCC long ago.

Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) authorities built two spacious overbridges in CEPZ gate area last year that help thousands of workers cross the busy intersection.

Pedestrians suffer most when they cross the busy highways risking serious mishaps.

Several people died and were injured in road accidents in these points on different occasions.

Intolerable gridlock due to abrupt crossing of the pedestrians usually hinders the smooth flow of vehicles during the office hours everyday.

Shilpa Das, a garment worker, said she was about to fall victim to accident while crossing the Bahodderhat intersection but narrowly escaped.

Israt Jahan, an SSC examinee from the BaWA School, said the students face serious problem everyday while cross the highway on the way to the school for lack of a overbridge.

Israt's father KBM Ismail



A foot overbridge has been lying unused for long at Station Road offering a scope for a nap to a beggar.

Chowdhury Hossain, also an assistant vice-president of Dhaka Bank, urged the authorities concerned to ensure security and maintain proper environment on the proposed foot overbridges for the pedestrians as the existing ones are safe haven for the criminals, including drug peddlers and vagabonds.

The overbridges in New Market, Reazuddin Bazar and Fakirhat areas are not very popular among the pedestrians as both the sides are covered with hoardings, making safe haven for the criminals, drug peddlers and hanging out of vagabonds, Ismail said.

In this regard, AKM Rezaul

Karim, head of CCC Architecture and City Planning Department, said according to the primary design no commercial display or signboard will be allowed on the railings of the overbridges in order to avert unsocial activities or crimes over there.

He said hoardings will be allowed 5 feet 6 inches above

the floor of the bridges so that they can not cover both the sides.

The private firms will prepare the final design of the overbridges according to the draft conceptual plan and design of the CCC engineers and architectures, he added.

The firms concerned will

bear the total costs for building and maintaining the bridges while the CCC executive engineer will supervise the construction work, sources said.

The proposed overbridges will be 18 feet high so that container carriers or double-decker buses can pass easily, sources added.

Earlier, CCC published advertisement a few months ago inviting tenders in this regard.

Three private firms applied for the work. But they did not get the work for failure to follow the CCC design, keeping space for the display of commercial signboards above the railings, sources said.

Renovation of dilapidated roads continues

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has continued its renovation work of the dilapidated thoroughfares in the port city using asphalt plant, a modern and sustainable technology, for smooth movement of the commuters.

The technology will ensure sustainability of the roads for a longer period, and once repaired, further touch of renovation of those roads won't be required for at least five to six years, CCC officials and engineers said.

The CCC at its 28th general meeting on October 30 last year approved Tk 20 crore to repair all types of city roads and a special project of Tk 20 crore to renovate the major thoroughfares by using asphalt plant method.

Under the special project that started in November last year, renovation of some key roads such as Mehdiabagh to Chawk Bazar, Golpahaar to Kazir Dewri, Jubilee Road (partial), and Kotwali Intersection to BRTC Bus Station in Kadamtali has been completed.

Many citizens expressed their satisfaction having travelled over the roads.

"The roads are pretty good and smooth. I feel very comfort now to travel over these roads because there is virtually no jerk anymore," said Dr Nasiruddin Mahmud, a child specialist.

Rashedul Amin, a senior officer of Dutch-Bangla Bank, said it is good to see that the CCC has finally appeared up to our expectation.

"Smooth travelling from my Kazir Dewri residence to my bank at Jubilee Road these days gives me nice feeling," he said.

The CCC has a network of around 500 kilometre roads including major thoroughfares, by-lanes, and alleys. Besides, 428 roads are carpeted while 67 are concrete roads and 152 brick soling, city corporation sources said.

"Under the project, around 60 to 80 kilometres roads in Chittagong will initially be renovated using asphalt plant technology and other roads will be renovated after availability of fund or grant," said Nizamuddin Ahmed, acting CCC chief engineer.

He said our objective is to give the commuters an excellent and smooth road network to get them rid of the daily travelling ordeals on the bumpy roads.

the week that was

Ma O Shishu Hospital orientation held

Orientation programme of MBBS third batch at Chittagong Ma O Shishu Hospital Medical College was held at the Lecture Gallery on Thursday.

Executive Committee President Prof ASM Fazlul Karim presided over the programme while Vice-president Prof Dr M Nurun Nabi and Syed Mohammad Abu Taher, General Secretary Dr Anjuman Ara Islam, Treasurer SM Morshed Hossain and member Prof Dr Nur Jahan Bhuiyan spoke at the programme.

Speakers said the college is a non-political institution and if all work hard and coordinate it will be one of the renowned medical colleges of the country.

Principal Prof MA Taher Khan briefed about the college and course curriculum of the students.

Syed Mohammad Azim Uddin and Nurul Hossain also spoke at the programme on behalf of the students.

Kidney transplant recipients' body formed

A three-member committee was formed at a meeting of kidney transplant recipients living in Chittagong on Saturday to explore the feasibility of establishing a life-saving medicine bank in the port city.

The proposed bank will ensure regular and uninterrupted supply of medicines at affordable prices to the patients, says a press release.

Abul Kashem, former registrar of a private university, was elected convener and Dr Indrajit Kunda and Moinul Hossain were members of the committee.

Dr Indrajit Kunda, Mustafa Bahar, Azizul Hoque, Md Mirajuddin and Moinul Hossain, all kidney transplant recipients, spoke at the meeting with Abul Kashem in the chair. Kidney donors Rokshana Islam Rita and Md Sahabuddin also spoke.

The speakers said any successful kidney transplantation marks the beginning of a process of costly life-long medication, but few people know it. They said on an average a kidney transplant recipient needs Tk 15,000 to 20,000 a month to pay medicine bill. As a result the patients are forced to compromise the dose and miss the schedule, posing a threat to life, they added.

Tribute to Mahub UI Alam, Prof Jahurul

Speakers at a memorial meeting on Saturday said Language Movement veteran Poet Mahub UI Alam Chowdhury and writer Prof Jahurul Haque were symbol of secular spirit.

Mahub UI Alam looked for the revolutionary faces like Masterda Surya Sen, Pritilata, Kazem Ali Master and Maniruzzaman Islamabadi through his

poems while Prof Jahurul had a significant role in Bengali literature as a researchers and litterateur, they said.

They were addressing a condolence meeting organised by Prottyay Sangskritik Sangsad, Chittagong at its Rahamatganj Office.

Prof Gazi Saleh Uddin was the chief guest at the rally with the organisation President Dr SK Dev Badal in the chair.

Azadi News Editor Samir Bhattacharya, Advocate Rana Das Gupta, Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad President Nitai Prashad Ghosh, Writer Dilip Kumar Mitra and the organisation's General Secretary Dr Bidhan Mitra spoke at the rally.

Thai Air special offers for Ctg passengers

Thai Airways International PCL has announced a new year's promotional tariff for its passengers travelling from Chittagong to 72 destinations of the world.

Presently, the airlines operate three flights a week from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport and seven flights from Zia International Airport, sources said.

The fare under this new promotional package has been reduced between Tk 3,500 to Tk 9,300 on different routes, said Monojit Barua, senior sales officer in Chittagong. The new offers were effective from January 10 for a period of three months.

Under the new tariff, passengers from Chittagong can travel Bangkok

and Kuala Lumpur for US\$ 230, Singapore for US\$ 350, Hong Kong and Kunming for US\$ 355, Canton for US\$ 400, Sydney and Melbourne for US\$ 764, and London for US\$ 904.

Besides, the DV Lottery winners can avail reduced fare of US\$ 619 to fly Los Angeles and US\$ 716 to travel to New York.

These facilities apart, frequent travellers and Royal Orchid Plus members can also accumulate and redeem miles, enjoy extra benefits such as free tickets, excess baggage, and priority when booking for seats, said the Thai Airways officials.

South Point School & College new campus opens

The new campus of South Point School and College (SPSC) was inaugurated in the port city on Sunday.

Dr Rifat Hasan, a professor of Louisville University in USA, was present as the chief guest in the function chaired by Dr ANM Munir Ahmad Chowdhury, chairman of the school's governing committee.

The speakers said there is no alternative to proper education to building up a prosperous nation.

PHP Group Chairman Sufi Mizanur Rahman, Prof Ingrid H Shafer and Leonard Swidler of Louisville University, and Director of SPSC Nargis Akter also spoke.

Later the chief guest distributed prizes among the meritorious students of the school.

Workshop for RMG officials concludes

A four-day workshop on 'Social and Environment Standards' for the mid-level officials of garment factory con-

cluded in the port city on Thursday.

German Technical Cooperation - GTZ organised the workshop in cooperation with Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) at Hotel Herber View.

BGMEA Standing Committee on

Compliance Cell, Chittagong Chairman Shawkat Osman was present as the guest at the concluding ceremony.

The GTZ Training Coordinator Khawja Saifullah conducted the training with the help of trainers Manzur Morshed and Victor Biswas.

The trainers trained up the partici-

pants on practical and theoretical knowledge of social standards and industry related issues like labour law, labour welfare, security compliance, fire safety, machinery safety and first aid.

The participants were given certificates after completion of the training.



Local artistes render song at a function marking the silver jubilee of Bangladesh Hindu Foundation, Chittagong on the JM Sen Hall premises on Friday.