

CDA plans huge bus terminal-cum-housing complex

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

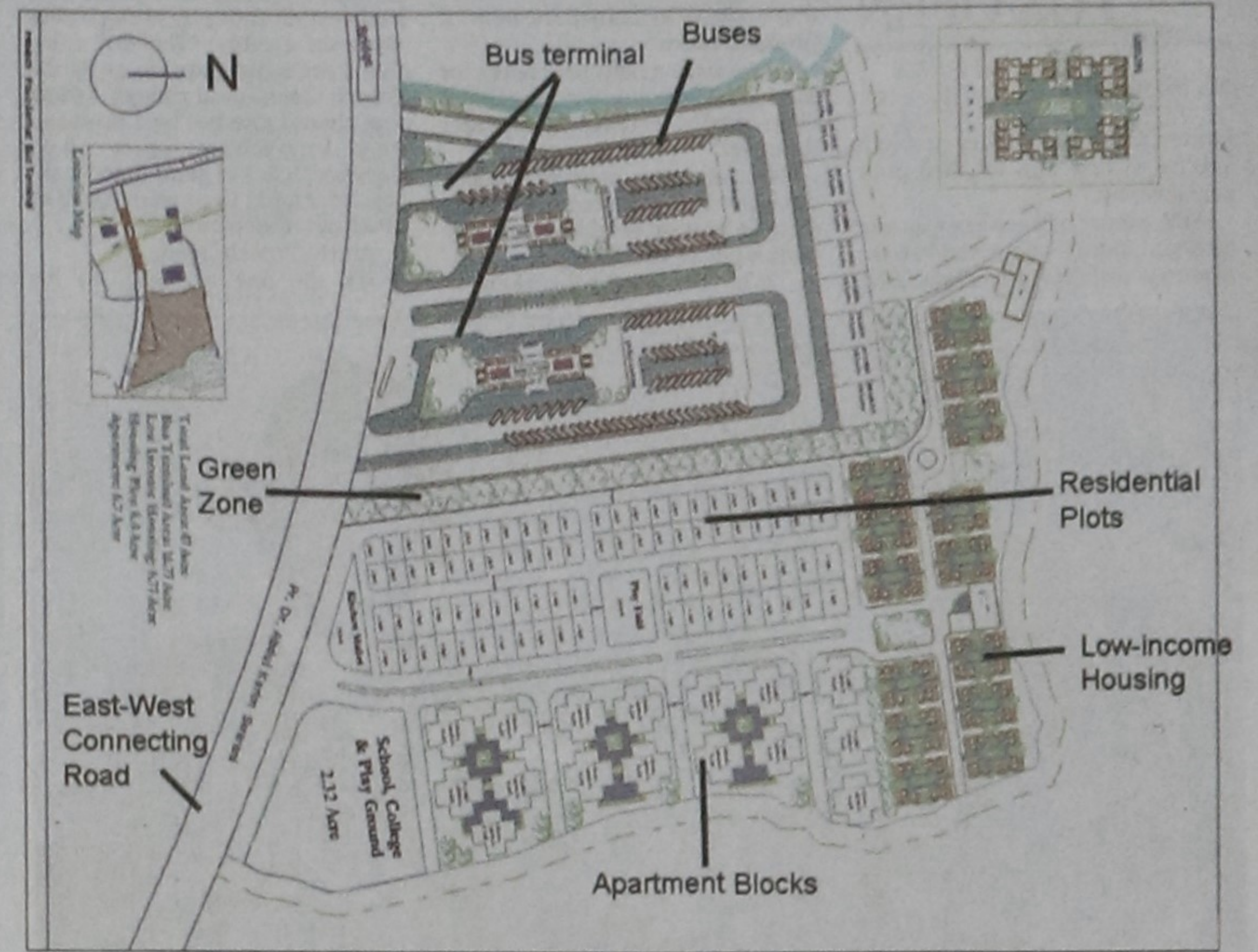
Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken an initiative to set up a huge bus terminal-cum-housing complex at Faujderhat in the port city. CDA will develop the complex with a view to easing traffic congestion at the city centre as well as providing housing facilities for the low-income people. The complex will be set up on 47 acres of land on the north of East-West Connecting Road, some 200 meters to the east of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, said the sources. The truck terminal will cover an area of 16.77 of the 47 acres of land. CDA will acquire the land to set up the terminal-cum-housing complex involving Tk

110 crore from its own fund. Two separate sheds - one for AC and the other for non-AC buses - will be set up at the terminal. The sheds will have parking facilities for 65 buses. There would be rows of counters and waiting spaces for the passengers at the sheds with separate entry and exit points for buses of different inter-district and inter-city routes, including Dhaka-Chittagong. Moreover, there will be workshops for servicing and parking the buses after their trips. The workshops will have space to accommodate another 230 buses, said the sources at CDA. At present there is a bus terminal in the Bahodderhat area for buses running between Chittagong and south

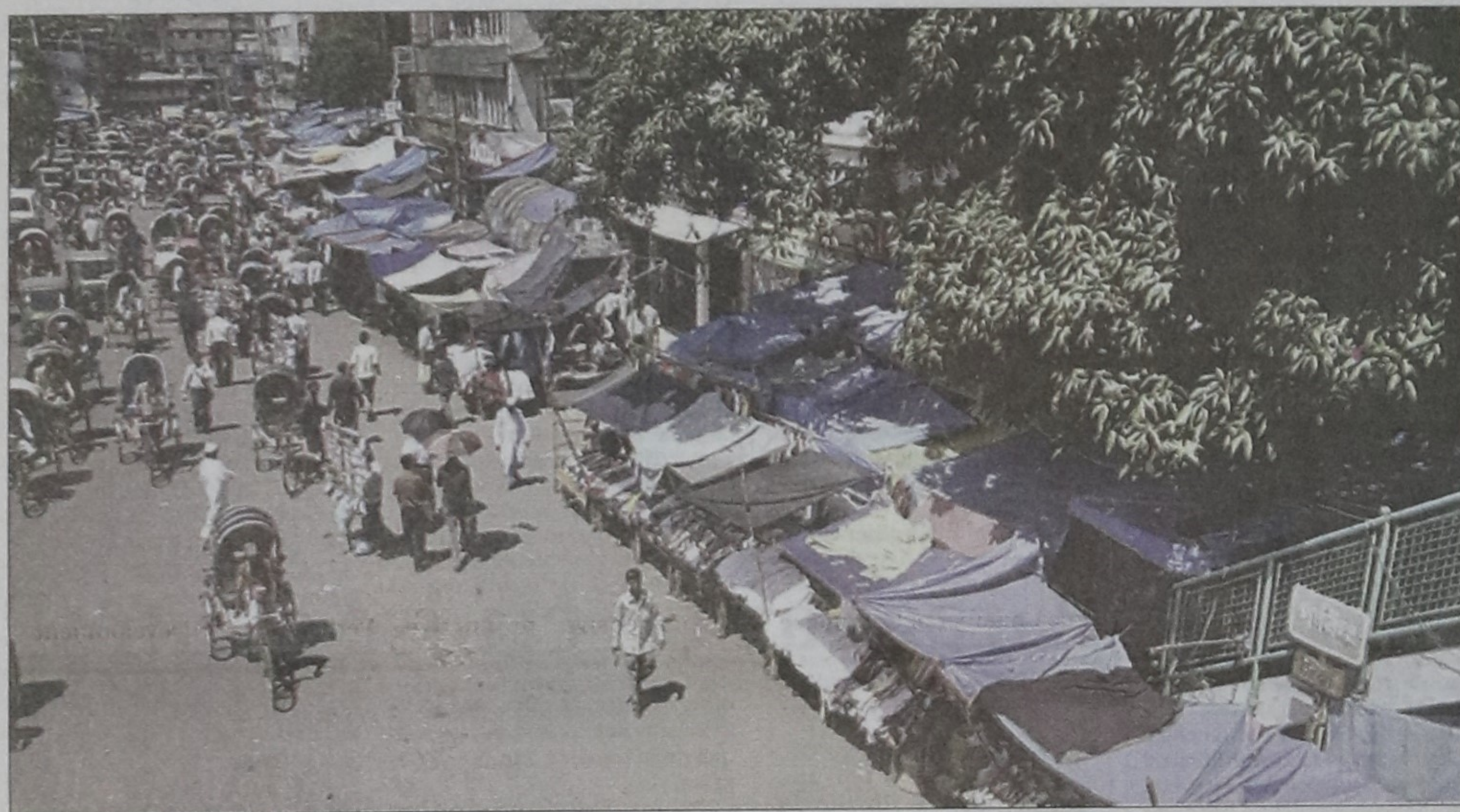
Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Bandarban. The buses of Chittagong-Rangamati and Chittagong-Khagrachhari routes leave the city from Oxygen intersection area. There is no planned terminal in Chittagong for the buses plying between Chittagong and other southern districts, including Dhaka. CDA submitted Development Project Proposal (DPP) for setting up a truck terminal on May 26. Later, the authorities prepared a revised project proposal (PP) for developing a bus terminal-cum-housing complex with low-income housing facilities, residential plots and apartment blocks in it. The revised DPP was supposed to be sent to the ministry concerned for housing on

September 9, sources said. The revised PP aims at developing housing facilities for the low-income people, who would be working in and around the bus terminal. A green-zone will separate the housing blocks from the bus terminal. Fifty-two nine-storey buildings will be constructed in 13 low-income housing blocks on over 6.77 acres of land. With four flats in each floor the buildings will have accommodation facilities for 1872 low-income families, said Executive Engineer Shahabuddin Khaled. Khaled was involved in preparing the DPP. Besides, some 200 residential plots of 3 kathas or 4 kathas will be developed on 8.4 acres of land and 8 apartment blocks on 6.7 acres under the project, he said.

Each of the apartment blocks will have space for constructing four to six high-rise buildings with posh apartments, said Assistant Engineer Rajib Das of DPP section of CDA. The bus terminal will be set up at the earliest possible time while the project to be implemented within three years, they said. "The low-income people will be offered the flats with opportunity to pay in easy instalments over a longer period of time," said CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin while talking to this correspondent. "Residential plots and apartment blocks will be developed and sold out to well-off people and property developers to raise fund for developing the low-income housing, he said.



Design of the CDA-proposed bus terminal-cum-housing complex at Faujderhat.



Hawkers have occupied most of the footpaths in the port city from the very beginning of Ramadan. The photo was taken from New Market area on Tuesday.

Hawkers rule footpaths ahead of Eid

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Hawkers and roadside shop owners, especially the seasoned vendors, have started encroaching on the footpaths in the port city with the beginning of holy Ramadan to earn quick bucks ahead of Eid and Puja festivities. They, pushing pedestrians on to the roads and causing immense problems to the commuters, have already occupied most of the city footpaths. Usually, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) allows hawkers in limited scale to run their trades on specific footpaths for the 'time being' during Eid-ul-Fitr and Durga Puja festivals on 'humanitarian grounds.' But the hawkers this time,

taking advantage of the CMP lenience, virtually reign in the city footpaths bothering little to the sufferings of the common people. Worst more, the small roadside traders also join the frenzy of occupation and stretched further the boundary of their shops by piling up goods or products on the footpaths. These footpaths in and around New Market, Station Road, Kadamtali Bus Terminal area, Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) area, Agrabad Commercial Area, Dewan Hat Intersection, Chittagong Export Processing Zone, Momin Road, Anderkilla, Boxirhat, Terry Bazar, Kazir Dewry, Chawk Bazar, Dewan Bazar, Muradpur, Sholoshahar Gate No 2, Nasirabad, Jamal

Khan, Bahodderhat, Laldighi, Patharghata, Aturer Depot, Ice Factory Road, Sadarghat, Nalapara, Halishahar, Kattali, Pahartali and East and West Madarbari are now under occupation of hawkers and vendors. The illegal occupation of footpaths and roads puts the passers-by into a miserable condition. The pedestrians are forced to undergo hassle to find their way through these footpaths and come down to the streets. It also attributes to gridlock to a large extent. Prof Jahir Uddin, a teacher of philosophy at Chittagong Govt City College, said he has to remain stranded in the jam for 20 to 30 minutes almost everyday now on the road in the New Market area on the way to col-

lege and while return home. "The picture on the footpaths in front of the Station Road, Jamal Khan, CMCH and other areas are shocking. Pedestrians like me often had to take the road to reach our workplaces or homes," said Dr Matiar Rahman Khan, a surgeon at Chittagong General Hospital at city's dense Anderkilla area. Naimul Hasan, assistant commissioner (detective branch) of CMP, said we generally allow hawkers to carry their businesses on humanitarian ground during Eid and Puja festivals on a limited scale. He said action will be taken if they try to take advantage of their compassion and encroach on footpaths indiscriminately.

theweekthatwas

Eye camp for schoolchildren

A daylong eyesight test programme for the schoolchildren was held on the Meron Sun School and College campus on Thursday. Lions Club of Chittagong Presidency and Chittagong Lions Eye Hospital jointly organised the programme. On the occasion, a discussion on 'Role of Lion in Controlling Blindness' was also held with President of Presidency Lions Club Dr Md Zakirul Islam in the chair. Region chairman of the club Md Nurul Islam was the chief guest at the discussion. School Principal Mohammad Sanaulah, Vice Principal Prof Omar Faruk, vice president of Presidency Lions Club Mohsin Ali and Treasurer Rokuzzaman Rashed also spoke at the discussion. Speakers urged the non-government organisations to work side by side with the government for preventing blindness among the students.

Workshop on writing begins

They said Lions Clubs will play a significant role in checking blindness in the region. Speakers urged the young writers to acquire quality of humanity and human values that would widen their minds. They were addressing the inaugural function on writing organised by Obshar Sangskritik Goshthi on Saturday. Renowned Litterateur Bipradas Barua was the chief guest at the ceremony held at the Chattagram Academy auditorium. Prof Moniruzzaman and Researcher Dr Mahbul Hoque spoke at the inaugural function. Speakers said proper training would create a scope for the new writers to nurture their creativity. There is no alternative to reading more literature for widening knowledge, they added.

Expressing dissatisfaction over the use of wrong spelling of Bengali words Dr Mahbul emphasised maintaining correct spelling while writing. Speakers hoped that the workshop would be helpful for the young enthusiastic writers.

Charge handover ceremony held

Charge handover ceremony of Lions Club of Chittagong Diamond City was held at a hotel in the city on Thursday. Speakers at the ceremony lauded the role of the Club in helping the distressed people of the society. Lions District Governor SM Ishaq was the chief guest in the ceremony while Vice District Governor Shah Mohammad Hasan, Cabinet Treasurer Jahangir Alam, Joint Cabinet Secretary Mahbul Alam, Region Chairman Chowdhury Shamim Mustafa and Zone Chairman Ilias Karim were special guests. Later, immediate past President

AKM Atiqur Rahman handed over charge to the new President Abdullah Al Hossain.

Concern over increasing number of drug addicts

Speakers at a seminar expressed their concern over number of the drug addicts, which has marked a sharp rise in recent time. They called upon all to work together to protect the young generation from the destructive drug addiction. Samaj Kalyan O Unnayan Sangstha (SKUS), a non-government organisation, organised the seminar on "Protecting the drug addicts from HIV/AIDS" at the Civil Surgeon Office on Wednesday. Chittagong Narcotic Control Department Additional Director Wahiduzzaman was the chief guest at the seminar chaired by Chittagong Civil



Visitors admire ornaments at an exhibition titled 'Bohe Tantubay' of designer Ivy Hasan at the Doll's House gallery. The five-day exhibition ended on Tuesday.



Prof Anisuzzaman speaks at a discussion marking the first death anniversary of Yusuf Chowdhury, founder of Bengali daily The Purbokone, at Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong centre on Tuesday.

IT service for lawyers

Computer and Internet services for members of Chittagong District Bar Association were inaugurated here on

Thursday. Chittagong District and Session Judge Majnul Ahsan and Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Basir Ullah inaugurated the services at the Association's Library. Inauguration of the services aimed at creating opportunities for the lawyers to keep pace with the modern information technologies. Association President AKM Sirazul Islam, General Secretary Mohammad Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, former president M Anwarul Kabir, former general secretary Chandan Das, Senior Vice President Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury, Vice President Abdul Hannan, lawyers Sheikh Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury, Mohammad

Mujibul Haque and Ratan Kumar Roy were present at the inaugural ceremony.

'Establish human rights in society'

Speakers at a seminar here on Saturday emphasised the need for collective efforts to establish human rights in the society. They said movement for establishing the rights should be launched from every house as women and child repression is going on in and around us till now. Bangladesh Human Rights

Commission, Chittagong South District organised the seminar on "Human Rights" at Engineer Abdul Khalek auditorium of Chittagong Press Club. Chittagong City Corporation acting Mayor Rekha Alam Chowdhury was the chief guest at the seminar chaired by the association President Ahmed Nabi Chowdhury. Human Rights Commission Central Secretary General Dr Saiful Islam Dildar was the main speaker at the seminar while Chittagong District and North District President Sentara Gaffar Chowdhury, Dr Jinobodhi Bhikkhu, Shamsunnahar Paran, Ahmed Rahim and Nurul Absar Chowdhury spoke at the seminar.