

AUW to start building main campus soon

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Asian University for Women (AUW), an Asian citadel for women's education, is likely to start construction of its main campus on 131.37 acres of land, including 104.40 acres donated by the government, soon.

Having the hill re-profiling permission the AUW is now cleared to begin construction of structures for its main campus on a hill beset with panoramic sight in the port city.

The newly formed hill cutting committee gave the permission for hill re-profiling (hill cutting) for developing the campus on the hilly terrain of North Pahartali at its first meeting on November 17. CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin is head of the committee.

As such, with the approval from the Department of Environment the university authorities now can start the construction work.

The committee discussed thoroughly every aspects of building construction, planning and hill re-profiling plans at the meeting at the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) building.

Members of the civil society and representatives from Institution of

Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), Institution of Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Institution of Planners Bangladesh (IPB), Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet), Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), Department of Environment (DoE) and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) were present at the meeting as members of the committee.

Architect and Town Planner Zarina Hossain, also the AUW director for Logistics and Planning, presented the hill re-profiling plan at the meeting chaired by CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin.

As per the world famous design consultant Moshe Safdie and Associates the AUW campus site that consists of rolling hills, deep valleys, permanent and intermittent streams required re-profiling of hills spreading over 47 acres of land, said Zarina.

The campus needed building construction permit for 14,40,000 sq-feet in all phases.

"AUW authorities will maintain all the procedures before going for the construction and strictly follow all the environmen-

tal and planning parameters required for developing structures in such a landscape," said Zarina while talking to this correspondent.

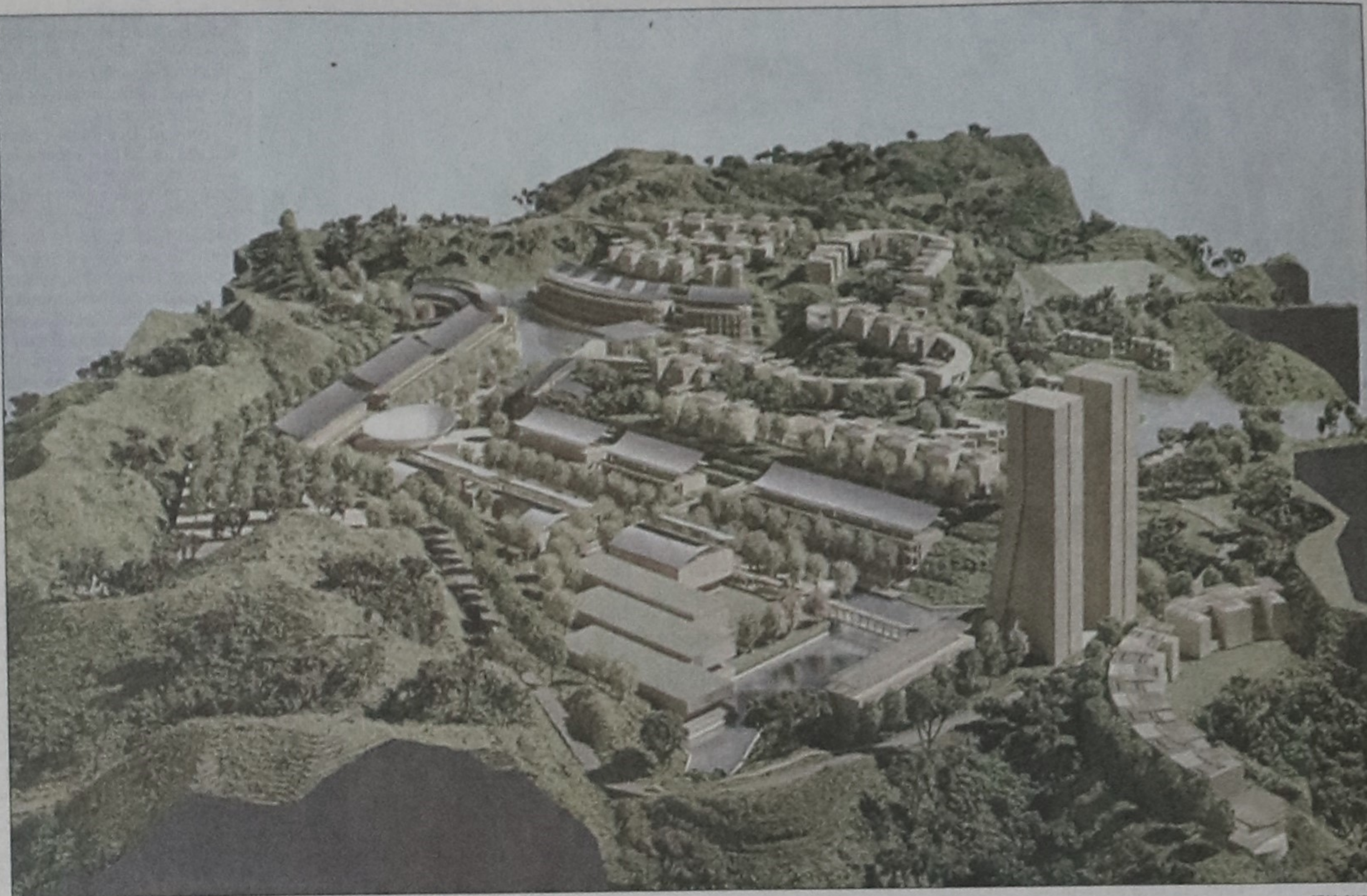
Akhteruddin said the AUW campus is designed as a pedestrian-dominant area where water reservoir will be developed on the valleys of the hills to construct structures beside them (water reservoirs).

"The AUW would have solar power panel on the roofs of the buildings," he said.

"Arrangements for recreation facilities will be made on the roofs of the buildings under the shade of rooftop power panel," he said, adding that the AUW has a plan to construct two iconic towers at the entrance.

The AUW campus site lies some six kilometres to the north of main commercial centre and 15km off the international airport of the port city. It offers a less chaotic urban experience, a unique and still largely unspoiled landscape of rolling hills immediately adjacent to the Foy's Lake recreation centre, all within the city limit.

One of the goals of the campus design is to re-vegetate the surrounding hills as a strategy for preventing erosion and a means to re-establish a



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The model of Asian University for Women (AUW).

native ecology, sources said.

The Asian University for Women would be developed under a 400million US dollar project supported by different individuals and donor agencies.

With a promised "matching grant" of 15million US dollar Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation leads the list of major donors that includes Goldman Sachs

Foundation, Packard Foundation, Hewlett Foundation and George Soros among others.

The AUW charter was approved and ratified through an act of the par-

liament of Bangladesh on September 25 in 2006.

It started its academic calendar on its temporary campus of AUW Access Academy in the city's MM Ali Road on April 6 this

year.

At present 129 students from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka are enrolling at the Access Academy campus.

DATABASE FOR CNG-RUN AUTORICKSHAW OWNERS, DRIVERS

CMP move gets poor response

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

The Traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has received poor response from the owners and drivers of CNG-run autorickshaws in making of an electronic database about their identity.

With 12 days left for submitting information about identity of the owners and the drivers, of 13000 CNG-run autorickshaws, only 37 drivers and owners have so far submitted their informa-

tion to the department until November 18.

Most of the drivers said they are unaware of the matter of making the database.

The traffic authorities at a meeting of Route Transport Committee (RTC) on October 22 asked the autorickshaw owners and drivers to submit information about their identity by November 30.

The department took the decision at a meeting on September 14 to curb crimes, including mugging committed by the

autorickshaw drivers as well as to reduce suffering of the commuters.

Commuters have been suffering a lot as most of the autorickshaw drivers violate traffic rules and do not use metres in their vehicles and charge extra fare.

The traffic department could not ensure use of metres in the three-wheelers, as the drivers are indifferent to the problem. They do not follow the new fare structure fixed by the government on April 26 following the price hike of Compressed Natural Gas

(CNG).

Sources, at the traffic department said they have seized around 841 autorickshaws and filed 5,293 cases for not using metres during the drives since September 14.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) (Traffic) Md Mahmudur Rahman said the new database will help trace the culprit drivers easily if they commit any crime or violate traffic rules.

The traffic department initiated the process of keeping data of

autorickshaw owners since July in 2007. The department asked them to display identity chart of the drivers in their vehicles.

But only 50 percent of the vehicles were found keeping the identity chart when most of them were with wrong information, said a traffic sergeant.

Prosecution-in-Charge of traffic department Nazmul Islam said they made a database last year about the identity of the owners of 16,629 CNG-run three-wheelers plying in the city and in the adjoining

upazilas.

He said they now want to make database of the drivers as well as to upgrade the old data of the owners.

He said they have also taken initiative to provide identity cards to the drivers with detailed information and photograph signed by the DC (traffic). The display of identity cards by the drivers while plying the vehicles will be made mandatory, he added.

Information included owner's name, driver's name, present address, father's name, photograph

and contact numbers of both the owner and the driver, vehicle number, engine number, year model, chassis number, manufacturer company of the vehicle, driver's identification mark, name and address of caretaker (if any), sources said.

Mahmudur said the database and the identity card will also be helpful for the passengers to inform about any driver immediately to the police if the latter charge higher fare or misbehave with them.

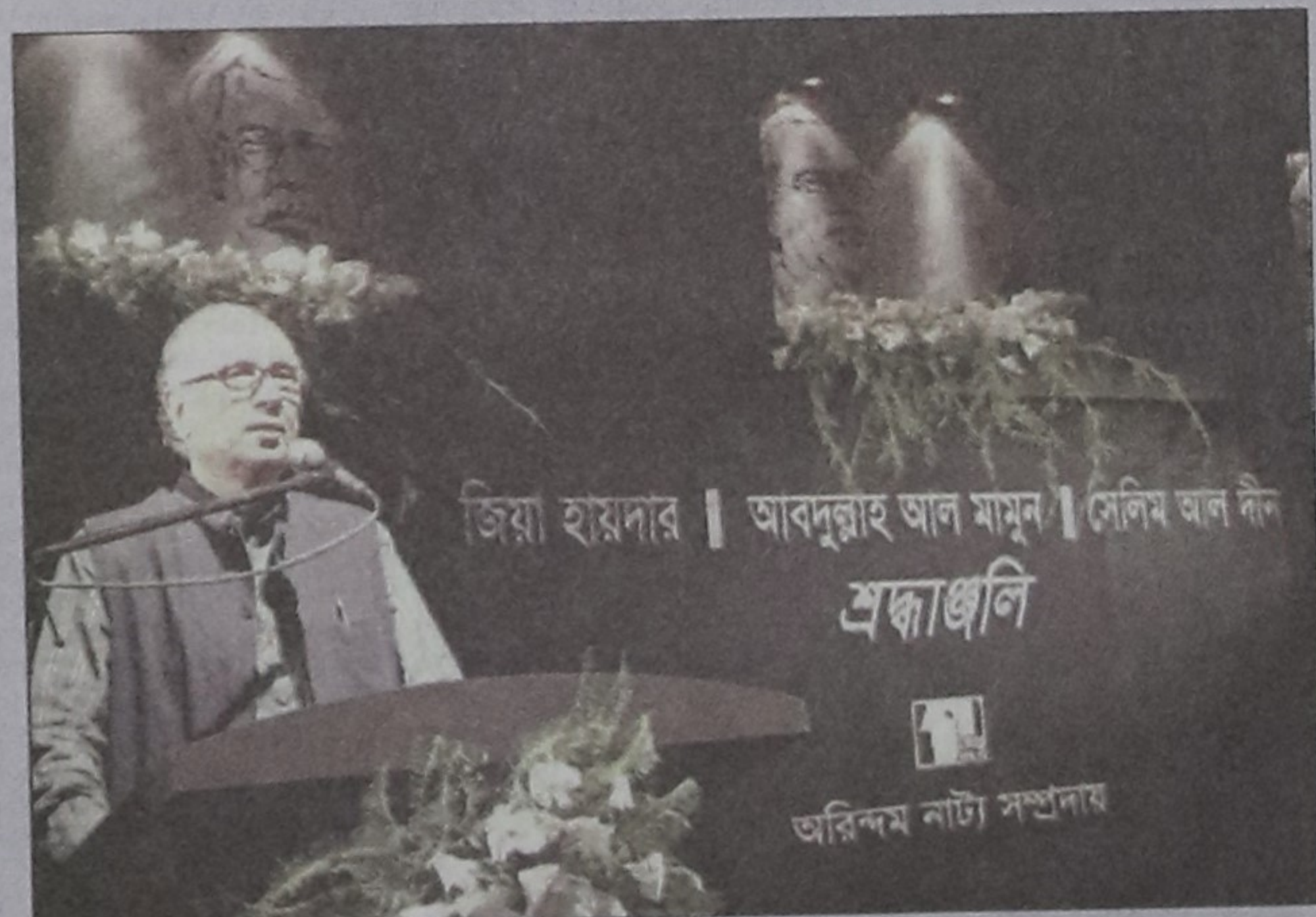
Rafiqul Islam, a driver,

said he has yet to hear about submitting information. Abdus Salam, another driver, said such an initiative is nothing but to harass them again.

Hailing the traffic initiative autorickshaw owner Dipankar said he will submit information soon.

When asked about the poor response in submitting information by the owners and the drivers, Mahmudur said they will start massive publicity soon about the process among the owners and drivers.

theweekthatwas



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Drama personality Ramendu Majumder addresses a memorial meeting organised by Arindam Natya Sampradaya in memory of three playwrights -- Zia Haider, Abdullah Al Mamun and Selim Al Din -- at Theatre Institute Chittagong (TIC) on Sunday.

Free medication for the poor

Modern Diagnostic Centre of city's Bohoddarhat area launched a free medication week on the occasion of its first anniversary on Friday. Child Specialist Dr Muhammad Glas Uddin and Cardiac and Medicine Specialist Dr Glas Uddin Chowdhury pro-

vided free medication among more than 100 poor patients on the opening day.

The patients were also given free medicines.

Dr SM Salah Uddin Sharif, Dr Nasrin Sultana, Dr Sanjoy Kumar Nath, Dr Kironmoy Chowdhury, Dr Ausim Mohajan, Dr Manab Kumar Chowdhury, Dr Mohammad Selim and Dr Rezaul Hasan also provided medications.

Smiling Sun branch opens

A new branch of Smiling Sun Clinic was opened in the city's Rahattarpole area on Thursday.

On the occasion, elaborate programmes, including procession, discussion and cultural programmes, were held.

Smiling Sun Franchise

Programme Chief of Party Huan Carlos Negret inaugurated the branch while Chittagong Deputy Civil Surgeon Dr MM Abu Tyub was present as the chief guest.

Local Ward Councillor Begum Saheda Kashem Sathi was the special guest at the function chaired by Nishkriti Founder Khurshid Anwar.

The Project Director Dr Renuka Alam, Nishkriti Executive Director Sheikh Shahidul Anwar and the Clinic Manager Soroj Kumar Nath also spoke at the function.

Tribute paid to Dr RI Chy

Speakers said works of Prof Dr RI Chowdhury should be brought before the people.

They paid tribute to RI Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Chittagong University and said his demise would appear as an irreparable loss to the society.

They were addressing a memorial meeting organised by Chittagong University Political Science Alumni Association at Chittagong Zila Parishad auditorium on Sunday.

The association Senior Vice President Jahangir Mian presided over the meeting while local daily Purbokone Assistant Editor

Swapan Dutta, Chittagong Union of Journalists' (CUJ) General Secretary Nazim Uddin Shyamal, Advocate Ebad Ullah, Dr Muhammad Kamal Uddin and Nazmul Haque spoke at the meeting.

'Raise awareness about family planning'

Speakers at a view exchange meeting called upon all to create awareness about family planning to achieve the millennium development goal.

They said family planning department of the government and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) have been working together in this regard to ensure developed life and livelihood of 40 lakh people in the Chittagong metropolitan area.

They were addressing the meeting on accelerating the family planning activities in the port city at KB Abdus Sattar auditorium on Sunday.

CCC acting mayor M Manjur Alam was the chief guest at the meeting chaired by CCC Education and Health Standing Committee Chairman and Ward Councillor Shahidul Alam.

Additional Secretary and Family Planning Department Director General Kamrunnesa

Khanam was the special guest at the meeting while CCC acting chief executive officer Mohammad Samudhoo, Chief Health Officer Dr Selim Akter Chowdhury, Health Adviser Prof Dr Nurjahan Bhuiyan, Health Officer Mohammad Ali, Family Planning Director Kazi Mohammad Shafiqul Alam and zonal medical officers took part in the discussion.

Infrastructure dev of Premier University underscored

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor and Chairman of Board of Governor's of Premier University ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury held a view exchange meeting with the vice chancellor and departmental heads of the university on Wednesday.

At the beginning of the meeting, profound shock was expressed at the sad demise of the university student Fauzia Sultana Tumpa, also daughter of the mayor, and prayed for salvation of her departed soul.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anupam Sen underscored the need for infrastructure development of the university.

The departmental heads also

put up different aspects of activities of their respective departments.

Dr Joyti Prokash Dutta, Dr Milon Kumar Bhattacharya, Towfiq Sayed, Saadat Jaman Khan, Shah Riaz Parvez, Deputy Registrar

Sheikh Mohammad Ibrahim, Assistant Registrar Khurshidur Rahman, CCC Acting Chief Engineer Mohammad Nizam Uddin and Architect Shahidul Haque attended the meeting among others.



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Winners of the Miss and Mr Beautiful Chittagong competition, Priyam and Apurba, pose for photograph at its final round at the Institute of Engineers auditorium on Tuesday. Portrait, a cultural organisation, arranged the competition.