

Under-construction high-rises ignore safety measures

ARUN BIKASH DEY
A four-year old girl Ishrat Jahan Himu died after a brick fell on her from an under-construction building in the Chittagong Naval Base Area on June 1.

Himu's uncle Md Manik blamed the developer company "Construction and Supply Corporation Limited" for not taking safety measures for construction.

He said the building is being constructed without following building codes in the Chittagong Naval Base Area.

Like "Construction and Supply Corporation Limited" many developers in the port city are doing construction works without taking proper safety measures, posing threat to the lives of city dwellers.

The port city is going to be a city of apartments day by day as it is the business hub of the country and the real estate companies consider the city as the centre of their booming business. Moreover, the decision of giving transit to the neighbouring countries has enhanced the importance of the port city to the business communities. The real estate companies from different parts of the country are mustering here and making the sector a competitive one.

With the increasing demand of residential as well as commercial buildings, some civic problems and health hazards for the city dwellers have also been created.

The realtors construct their towers without keeping minimum space for the adjacent buildings and keep construction materials occupying the city roads or footpaths.

Russell Suman, a banker, said he feels insecure while he walks past the high-rise buildings alongside the roads as bricks or any other construction materials might fall on him.

Shahinul Islam Khan, chairman of building construction committee under

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), said they have asked the developers to take proper safety measures during the construction works and not to keep the building materials on the path of the commuters.

Shahin said they have an inspection team with authority to fine the building owners and seize the construction materials. The CDA can cancel the project if anyone repeats the crimes, he added.

Due to the shortage of manpower, the inspection activities are hampered frequently, Shahin said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP-traffic) Faruk Ahmed said it is true that some real estate companies keep construction materials on the footpaths and on roads, creating hazards for the commuters which is not under the jurisdiction of traffic department.

Police stations are responsible for looking into these matters and taking legal action, he added.

CMP Commissioner Abul Kashem said the city corporation is the authority to look into the matters. "You better ask the city corporation officials in this regard," he advised.

Mayor Manjur Alam said the city corporation is going to issue a notice to the developer companies to remove their construction materials from the road and footpaths immediately. If anyone fails to remove their materials within the given time they will be penalised, he added.

Kazi Aynul Haque, managing director of Equity Property Management Limited, said his company always abides by the building codes. He, however, said there are some companies who do not follow the building codes, posing threat to the lives of commuters.

Equity Property Management Limited in Cheragi Moor intersection, however, continued its construction works without any safety measures.



A multi-storey building is being constructed at Momin Road in the port city without any safety measure while the footpath.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

theweekthatwas

Workshop on trade held

A workshop titled 'World Trade Organisation (WTO) and development of trade in Bangladesh' was held at Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) on Saturday.

WTO cell, a component of commerce ministry, organised the workshop with CCCI Senior Vice President Mahabubul Alam in the chair.

WTO cell Managing Director Amitabh Chakraborty, Joint Secretary Md Shawkat Ali and WTO Cell Director Ataur Rahman spoke at the workshop.

Lauding the government for joining the Enhanced Integrated Frame Work (EIF), the speakers said it would help the local traders trade in international markets.

They also thanked the government for launching the dealership system for trading in the place of delivery order (DO) system.

They said this would bring a radical change in trading.

Call for pollution-free environment

Speakers at a seminar on Friday said called upon all to free environment from pollution.

They were speaking at a seminar titled "Drinking water of the Halda: Demand of the citizens and the reality" organised by Karitas Bangladesh, Chittagong zone at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) to mark the World Environment Day 2011.

Journalist Mohammad Ali presented the keynote paper at the seminar.

Munir Chowdhury, a director of department of environment (DoE), in his speech as the chief guest said the corrupt government officials do not want the pollution-free environment.

He said the industrialists who establish mills and factories on the bank of the river do not care for the environment and just want to make money.

Mohammad Ali in his keynote paper said the Halda is the only river in Bangladesh where the carp fishes release eggs in a certain period of the year and one of the natural fish breeding centres in the world.

Prof Manjurul Kibria, Caritas Regional Director James Gomez, Chittagong Press Club Secretary Rashed Rauf, Channel-i Bureau Chief Chowdhury Farid, Mahasin Chowdhury, journalist Kamal Parvez also spoke at the seminar.

Perfume World kicks off operation

Azzaro Duo of Paris, the most celebrated perfume brand in the world, launched its journey in the port city on Saturday.

Perfume World, a concern of Bangla Perfume Distributors Limited, brought the perfume in Bangladesh for the first time.

Persona Managing Director Kaniz Almas Khan inaugurated the product at shop 247 of AFMI Plaza. Chairman of Bangla Perfumes Distributors Limited Md Faridul Hassan Chowdhury, CEO of Bangla Perfumes Distributors Limited Khondokar Nazrul Islam, Executive Director Md Zakir Hussain and Brand Ambassador of Perfume World Media Personality Sharmin Lucky and musician Kona were present on the occasion.

Film festival concludes

A two day-long film festival concluded in the port city on Saturday.

Chittagong Film Centre (CFC), a leading cultural organisation working on film, organised its annual film sessions to pay homage to the great masters of the film world titled "Tribute to maestro" at city Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC).

The inaugural programme began with an address of

welcome by Shaibal Chowdhury, director of CFC.

In his speech Shaibal said they arranged the programme with a view to introducing the great directors like Vittorio De Sica and Akira Kurosawa with the viewers of new generation.

Terming film a strong means of mass communication, he said the works of the great maestros would leave a lasting impression in the heart of film-loving viewers of the new generation.

The festival started with the screening of the film "A Woman is a Woman" directed by Jean Luc Godard.

The other films that were screened at the film session were... 'The Bicycle Thieves' by Vittorio De Sica, 'Madadayo' by Akira Kurosawa, 'Paths of Glory' by Stanley Kubrick, 'Road Home' by Zhang Yimou, 'Diary of a Country Priest' by Robert Bresson.

Proposed budget investment-friendly: CCCI

The Chittagong Chamber and Commerce and Industries (CCCI) on Sunday thanked Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith for proposing an investment-friendly, employment generating and social development conducive budget for the financial year 2011-12.

CCCI President Morshed Murad Ibrahim thanked him for attaching the most importance to bringing the tax administration under automation, simplifying tax procedure and making the tax department transparent and accountable.

Morshed also thanked the government for including the CCCI suggestions in the proposed budget to set up bond commissionerate, integrated custom house automation in Chittagong and increasing the productivity of Chittagong port.

Welcoming the proposal of reducing zero percent customs duty on food goods, medicine, raw cotton and fertiliser, he said it would expedite the industrialisation in the country.

Tunnel under river Karnaphuli underway

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

A tunnel will be built up under the river Karnaphuli to connect the southern part of the Chittagong with the port city as well as to facilitate communication with Cox's Bazar.

Communication ministry has undertaken a project in this regard to be implemented by Bangladesh Bridge Authority with the assistance of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

The bridge authority, a component of the communication ministry, called a tender for feasibility study where a joint venture of China Communication Construction Company Limited and Arup was the lowest bidder. The company started its feasibility study from May 31. CDA officials said they have suggested the site to build the tunnel at Kalurghat or Patenga portion of the river for its maximum use. They said to explain their idea about the tunnel, they held a meeting with Bangladesh Bridge Authority and a delegation of the selected company on June 1.

Md Ashrafur Islam, executive engineer of CDA project department, said the bridge authority will implement the project and Tk12 crore has been allocated for feasibility study. The company concerned will submit its report on observation and suggestions to Bangladesh Bridge Authority within nine months, he added.

Ashrafur said it will be better if the proposed tunnel is built at Patenga point as Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Road would be used as transit route. If authorities concerned decide to build the tunnel in the middle of the town, it could increase the traffic jam, he added.

He said CDA also has proposed to connect the tunnel with the outer ring road of the city to make the communications easier for Dhaka-Cox's Bazar routes.

CDA also has kept a provision in its master plan for tunnel under the river Karnaphuli, Ashrafur added.

Mentioning about the importance of a tunnel, CDA Chairman Abdus Salam said it will create a great scope to explore industrial area in the southern part of the Karnaphuli where there is already an industrial area.

Besides, the proposed tunnel under the river has grown interest among the investors from home and abroad to establish industries in that zone, he added.

CDA sources said though the CDA has a proposal to establish the tunnel at Patenga point they have also an alternative proposal for the tunnel at Kalurghat FIDC road and western part of the Chittagong EPZ.

CDA is opposing to build the tunnel on the middle of the city which they have already expressed to the delegates of the feasibility study team as well as the government. The feasibility study team has already visited the proposed sites of CDA, they added.

Mentionable, it was a long standing demand of Chittagong city planners as well as developers to build up a tunnel across the river Karnaphuli to connect the southern part of the district and facilitate communications of Cox's Bazar, the biggest tourist city of the country and one of the longest natural sea beach.



Managing Director of Persona Kaniz Almas Khan and other guests display products of 'Perfume World' at an outlet of Afmi Plaza in the port city on Saturday.

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