



With its serene water and lush greenery, Agrabad Deba, a reservoir located at the heart of the port city, stands tall amid its concrete jungle. The century-old canal was actually born out of a construction project of the Bangladesh Railways in 1908, after large amounts of soil were excavated from the area to construct a railway line. Spanning across 27.4 acres, this reservoir not only offers a much-needed to residents but also serves as a reminder to preserve our waterbodies. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Good news for heart patients

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

With an aim to provide the best cardiac care facilities to people from all walks of life, a specialised heart hospital under the Heart Foundation is going to start its journey in Chattogram by September.

Under the supervision of Principal Secretary Ahmad Kaikaus, Chattogram District Administration has fixed a temporary building of Public Works Division in the city to start the heart foundation's journey formally.

A coordination meeting in this regard was held recently at Chattogram Circuit House where top

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officials of Chattogram divisional and district administration offices and senior doctors were present.

From the meeting, a 10-member committee of Chattogram Heart Foundation was formed headed by Kaikaus.

Dr Prabir Kumar Das of the cardiology department at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) is the secretary general of the committee.

Mohammad Mizanur Rahaman, additional divisional commissioner of Chattogram, said "Primarily, a place has been selected to provide outdoor service for patients. We are working to make a full-fledged heart hospital in Chattogram so that people can receive treatment at a lower cost here without going to the capital."

At present, heart patients are receiving treatment from the Cardiology department of CMCH. Apart from that, there are several private hospitals, which have cardiac treatment and operative facilities and other options for heart patients.

Cuet continues to shine on global stage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) students have shined yet again in the annual international students' concrete project competition of the American Concrete Institute, by bagging the second runners-up position.

The achievement comes riding on the back of last year's success, where three teams of the same institution won the championship, the first runners-up and the second runners-up awards respectively.

The results of this year's contest were published on ACI's website on Thursday.

Two teams represented Cuet at the event, where the line-up of Md Akram Hossain and Amit Mallik finished in third place competing against teams coming from 120 countries.

Both are students of 2015-16 academic year of Civil Engineering Department.

They received this award by researching how to test the strength of concrete in a short period of time.

Akram Hossain told the Daily Star that usually it takes a few days to test the strength of concrete.

"However, we can get an approximate value in a short time using some equations and artificial intelligence. This is basically what we worked on."

The winning duo will get an international certificate and 250 US dollars each for their project titled, "Compressive Strength Prediction of Self Compacting Concrete Using Artificial Neural Network".

GM Sadiquul Islam, the adviser of the team and a professor of Cuet Civil Engineering Department, said, "We are very happy with this success. I believe it will motivate students..."

American Concrete Institute is a Michigan-based international professional organisation which organises this competition every year.



PATENGA a beach encroached

SIFAYET ULLAH

Illegal structures are springing up along the port city's Patenga sea beach ignoring the directive of Chattogram Development Authority (CDA).

Locals alleged that the beach is losing its beauty due to illegal establishments. The beach environment is being polluted as garbage from these shops and various wastes used by tourists fall into the sea.

Tofazzal Hossain, a local, said due to the lack of regular supervision by the authorities, influential people are occupying the beach and building shops.

During a recent visit to the Patenga sea beach area, this correspondent found that hundreds of illegal structures were built with corrugated tin sheets and wood.

Mohammed Sakib, a businessman in the beach area, said Tk 20 is paid per day by each shop on the beach. Some linemen are in



who leased a store space from an influential quarter, said all the store owners have made verbal contracts with influentials and made payments to them.

When asked about their identities, he did not want to continue the conversation with this correspondent.

Every day, hundreds of people are thronging the area; the crowd doubles during holidays. At the same time, illegal shops are also built on the rocks of the beach. As a result, tourists cannot sit properly on the beach.

Farhana Akter Nipa, a tourist, said Patenga beach does not have provisions to sit anywhere and relax. "Everything is occupied here," she told this correspondent.

Mohammed Israfil Mazumder, inspector of the Patenga sub zone tourist police, said, "Local influential people build illegal structures on the beach in the dark of night.

Even though they were evicted, the occupiers built structures again."

He said the beach is not regularly supervised as there is no committee in this regard. "We've requested the Chattogram Development Authority to evict the illegal structures from the beach," he added.

According to the CDA, it is almost done building a 17km embankment road from Patenga to Faujdarhat, Sitakunda. Around five-km of it will be for tourists.

Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of CDA, said their judicial court has ordered the eviction of all illegal structures from Patenga beach.

"There will be no illegal shops on the beach. We'll start the evacuation drive from next week," he added.

About the influential quarter, he said they will initiate the drive against all illegal structures, no matter who their owners are.

“Local influential people build illegal structures on the beach in the dark of night. Even though they were evicted, the occupiers built structures again.”

MOHAMMED ISRAFIL MAZUMDER, inspector of the Patenga sub zone tourist police



charge of collecting this fee.

Last month, the CDA directed the immediate removal of all structures from the Patenga sea beach. It also directed the authorities concerned and tourist police to take necessary steps to stop encroachment, earth filling, and construction of structures on the beach.

Requesting anonymity, a store owner,

A new home for 11 python hatchlings

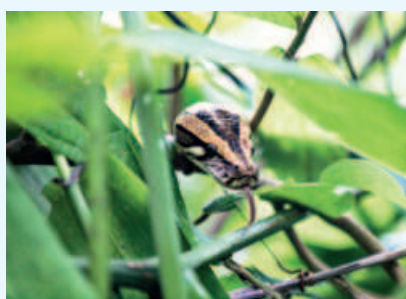
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sitakunda Eco Park is now the home to 11 baby pythons, born in an incubator at the Chattogram Zoo.

With this latest addition, 64 pythons have been released at the park.

Dr Md Shahadat Hossain, curator of the Chattogram Zoo, 25 eggs were hatched at the zoo for the first time in 2019. They were able to hatch 28 eggs last year and this year the number was 11. These newly hatched pythons were released in the Sitakunda Eco-Park in presence of Md Ashrafal Alam, assistant commissioner (land) in Sitakunda last Sunday.

He said the highest number of snakes are caught and killed in Chattogram's Sitakunda upazila and after that in



Fatikchhari, Patia, Chandanaish, Hathajari and Banshkhali.

The number of snakes is decreasing day by day due to deforestation and the lack of food.

He, however, said awareness among the people has increased as compared to earlier times.

CTG TREE FAIR A welcome respite from urban cacophony

SIFAYET ULLAH

It is indeed a fiesta of foliage and plant. A riot of colours; colours of flowers and fruits -- that come in all shades and hues.

A stroll through the tree fair in the port city's CRB area was a welcome respite from the urban cacophony. This carnival of nature greeted all with its serene beauty, while visitors appreciated the wide range of fruit plants, flowers and orchids on display.

The 15-day tree fair started on August 8.

This year, more than 40 private nursery owners participated in the fair while the total number of stalls was 53.

As the trend goes, the main attractions at the fair were fruit trees and ornamental plants. Medicinal plants, seasonal flowers and vegetable seeds, cactus, bonsai and indoor plants also attracted a large segment of visitors.

Rooftop gardeners were the main customers at the fair, while other visitors came to the fair just to escape the monotonous cityscape, said



stall owners.

Representatives from corporate offices and landscaping companies also visited the fair for wholesale purchase, said Md Nazmul Hasan, ranger of Chattogram North Forest Department.

According to stall owners, majority of the customers opted for fast-growing fruit plants.

"Most people prefer hybrids because it takes less time to harvest and has the ability to grow

more fruits than the local variety," said Jashim Uddin, owner of Fatehabad Nursery, at his stall in the fair.

He added that grafted trees also shared the same demand due to their growth rate.

Bidan Barua, a resident of the CRB area, bought saplings of a variety of all-season mango.

"I want to create a rooftop fruit garden at my new apartment. This is the right place to find appropriate fruit plants that grow in pots," he added.

"If I can grow some regular vegetables, I may be able to cut down monthly costs," said Jaheda Akter, another visitor.

Mozammel Hoque Shah Chowdhury, divisional forest officer of Chattogram North Forest Department, said, "The goal of holding the fair is to promote tree plantation and create a platform for nursery business owners."

The fair, which remained opened every day from 9:00am to 9:00pm, will continue till August 17.