

## CMC girls cram into lone hostel Furniture from old ships

**NURUL ALAM**

The female students of the Chittagong Medical College have been facing acute accommodation crisis as over 400 girls cram into the lone hostel with a capacity of 200.

The Kanta Hostel is the only dormitory for female students.

Principal Dr Chowdhury B Mahmud said the female students are forced to stay in the common room and reading rooms in the hostel. Sixty-five students are living in the common room without any ventilation and other facilities, Dr Mahmud said. Even they share only one toilet, so it is easily understood how our female students are passing their days here, he added.

"We face difficulty to provide seats for the first year students. We urgently need to expand our hostel facilities for female students before the situation worsens further," he said.

On different occasions, some ministers including Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman visited the CMC. During meetings with the officials and teachers, they assured them of addressing the problems immediately which was mere rhetoric as they only paid lip-service, campus sources said.

"We always received soothing words with sugar-coated assurance from the ministers



Kanta Hostel, the only dormitory for female students of Chittagong Medical College.

and high officials, but we did not see any development or translation of their words into action. So we find it hopeless," said a senior teacher seeking anonymity.

"We have only one hostel for female students with a capacity of 200 seats at Chittagong Medical College. And about 50 per cent of total 1000 students are girls. Our female students are living in this hostel in a horrible and sub-human condition," he added.

"They are forced to live in a

suffocating atmosphere and even three students share a single cot there".

Caretaker Parvin Akter said, "The students are really living in a miserable condition. We are also helpless to accommodate such a large number of students in this particular hostel".

Bannya Chowdhury, a fourth year student and resident of the hostel, said, "we have no reading room facilities here as the existing ones are occupied by the students for shortage of rooms."

Sources said the plan for increasing hostel facilities for female students remained shelved for a long time for non-allocation of funds.

The CMC authorities have taken it up with the ministry concerned time and again without any tangible result due to bureaucratic tangles, sources added.

Meanwhile, the CMC academic council at a meeting decided to vacate the 'Lutfus Salam Hostel', a dormitory for male students, to accommo-

date the female students. It has a capacity of 47 seats.

But the college authorities did not take any step to vacate the hostel occupied by the ruling party cadres, sources said.

It is difficult to vacate the hostel at the moment as the authorities don't want to face hassle, a senior official said.

The ruling party leaders denied the allegation of occupation of hostel by cadres or outsiders at the CMC.

**MOHIT UL ALAM**

To buy furniture from the old ships has been the greatest craze of the Chittagonians since the time the ship-breaking business started here about twenty years ago.

Big merchant ships, deep-sea oil tankers, lighters, big hulk cargo carriers with a draft enough to sink the twin towers, some weighing in the range of 38000 to 50000 tonnages, that is vessels of every type and size do become old, worn out, and difficult for sailing, and then they are all purchased from agencies in Singapore, or at Rotterdam, or at Copenhagen at a cheaper bargain and then brought to the Chittagong sea-coast for dismantling.

The common phrase used in Chittagong for this undoing of the vessels is called ship breaking, and it's an amazing process if you happen to watch it.

That was philosophical, but what is economically important is that ship-breaking industry has been supplying the raw material for all kinds of re-rolling industries, and also a major furniture-procuring source.

The re-rolling mills run by using the scraps of the dismantled ships. First the scraps are put into the furnace to produce sheets, and then the sheets are processed in the mill for making iron rods, both plain and wrought. The coil rods, measuring three-thread width, I believe, are also made of ship scraps, or they may have been imported.

The other use of the dismantled ships is the lot of furniture each ship provides. In fact, before a ship is grounded for dismantling, an auction is held to sell off its total furniture in a lot, which includes doors, windows, bathroom doors, beds, chest of drawers, shelves, and in the bathroom accessories, tabs, bathtubs, basins; in the kitchen things all

kinds of porcelain cups and plates and dishes, and sinks, and basins; in the security section door locks, and in the lighting section lampshades, etc.

The ship furniture is simple in design, light in weight, but cute. Their colour is modest, ranging from a light brown to light yellow. Housewives are crazy for buying them. The roadside shops storing and selling the ship furniture can be seen starting from Fauzder Hat to Pahartali a stretch of 10 miles. Initially it was good honest business. But now corruption has

entered, and fake furniture by applying formica and all that is reported to be sold. That is bad.

An original ship bed is now difficult to be found. The businessmen now have redesigned the bed to conform to our ugly traditional taste, and they have also coated it in teak colour removing the original sophisticated white-bony colour. Besides, they have also used pegs in the joints to make it look as ugly as possible.

So the quality of the ship furniture has dropped, and so has the demand for it.

### ATTENTION MR MAYOR



This is a road, not drain though appears so. The Bahaddarhat-Chandgaon link road near the Bahaddarhat market has virtually turned into a drain with sewerage water overflowing into it throughout the year. Not only the commuters, also the residents of the roadside houses suffer a lot. The pedestrians find it difficult to cross the area without getting wet as speeding vehicles create splashes of dirty water. Health hazards are also a cause for concern among the nearby residents, but the authorities have turned a blind eye to their plight. The road also stands testimony to the dilapidated state of the drainage system in the city.

## theweekthatwas

### Khaleda, Hasina urged to work unitedly

The speakers at the FCSOA installation ceremony here called upon both Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina to work unitedly in the greater interest of the country and people.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Abdul Awal Minto in his speech as chief guest said the FBCCI would open an office in Chittagong soon.

It would also extend all out support and cooperation to the ongoing movement of Federation of Chittagong Ship Owners Association (FCSOA), Minto said.

Abul Kashem Haider and Md Borhan Ullah of Igloo Ice-cream and Abdul Monayem Ltd. Chittagong were present as special guests with FCSOA founding president Salah Uddin in the chair.

### Save USTC

A stalemate situation continued at the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) over termination of UTA president and reported violation of agreement by the vice chancellor on Wednesday.

Protesting the termination of Prof Dr Mulkutur Rahman in violation of agreement, BMA-USTC Coordination Council held a rally and brought out procession on the university library premises on Thursday.

Presided over by Council convener Prof Dr Imamuddin, the speakers at the rally blamed USTC Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Nurul Islam for

violating agreement repeatedly and demanded his removal. They called upon the politicians and the members of the civil society to save the university.

BMA, Chittagong General Secretary Dr Khurshid Jamil Chowdhury, Dr Abu Naser, Prof Ranajit Kumar Chakravarty, Prof Mahiduzzaman and Prof Dr Quazi Rafiqul Haq spoke at the rally.

### Make blood test compulsory to check Hepatitis-C

Speakers at a seminar here stressed the need for compulsory blood test for diagnosis and checking Hepatitis C.

Bangladesh Society of Medicine (BSM), Chittagong unit, organised the seminar on infection of Hepatitis C and its management at a local hotel on Friday under the auspicious of Rosh Bangladesh Limited.

They said as the disease (Hepatitis C) spread through blood circulation, there is no alternative to blood test to detect it. They termed the disease as a "silent killer" to damage the liver stealthily.

About 17 crore people have been suffering from this disease allover the world while around 35 lakh were being infected every year, they said.

Professor Dr M Nurun Nabi was present as the chief guest at the seminar with BSM, Chittagong unit President Prof AFM Aminul Islam in the chair. Prof Dr Mobin Khan and Associate Professor Dr Nuruddin Ahmed of Bangabandhu Medical University were present as the principal speakers at the seminar where BSM, Chittagong General Secretary Dr Ridwanur Rahman made the address of wel-

### Children have no party affiliation: Hasina



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina poses with the children of Chandherhat, Chattagram at a local hotel during her recent visit to Chittagong.

Children are innocent and beautiful and they don't have any party affiliation. So we all have to work for children irrespective of party affiliation to help their latent talents flourish.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said this when a group of children of the

Ananda Shabha of Chandherhat, Chattagram called on her at Hotel Agrabad on September 10.

No children would be deprived of education or fall victim to repression, if conscious citizens work together and make efforts to contribute whatever they can form their respective positions, Hasina said.

Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Ward Commissioner M A Naser, child organiser Mazbah Uddin Azad, advisor to Chandherhat, Chattagram and woman leader Shirin Akter, human rights activist Farhad Uddin Shimul, academicians Rabeya Iqbal Sumi were also present.

### International children painting exhibition

A three-day international children's painting exhibition titled, "Magic Pencil" was held here on Friday.

Bangladesh Shishu Academy and British Council jointly organised the exhibition at the local Shishu Academy auditorium.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (LA) Md Mozilul Islam inaugurated the exhibition where Julia M Crockette, Director of British Council, Chittagong, and renowned writer Fahmida Amin were present as special guests. Md Moktarul Alam, district organiser of Shishu Academy, Chittagong presided.

Paintings of 60 young artistes of the United Kingdom (UK) were put on display. On the inaugural day, an art competition was also held. Around 600 children and adolescents took part in three groups.

### Japanese tour-

### ists meet Mir Nasir

Tourists would be crowding Bangladesh in a massive way next year when Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) would provide them with all arrangements for comfortable journey and stay here.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Md. Nasir Uddin said this while he was exchanging views with a 20-member Japanese tourist team at a local hotel here on Thursday. The team arrived in Bangladesh on September 5 under the arrangements of The Bengal Tours Ltd, a private agency. They visited different places of attraction and historical interests here.

Under the arrangement of The Bengal Tours Ltd, three to four more Japanese teams would be visiting Bangladesh every month till the end of March, 2004. Each team would comprise 15 to 20 tourists, sources said.

The statement for civil aviation and tourism also said some 500 tourists from Delhi and West Bengal of India

have shown their interest to visit Bangladesh. Tourists are also expected to come from Korea soon, the minister added.

### Installation of Swajan Super Market Assoc

"Installation 2003" of the newly-formed executive committee of Swajan Super Market Businessmen Welfare Association was held on the market premises at Bahaddarhat on Thursday.

Chittagong chamber president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury in his speech as chief guest said Chittagong chamber had put forward a demand for immediate measures to ease the unbearable congestion of traffic at Bahaddarhat. Responding to the demand the government had already taken measures in this regard and they would be implemented soon, he said.

Chittagong chamber Senior Vice-President Md Ershad Ullah, Director

Mahfuzul Haq and local politician Abu Sufian attended the ceremony as special guests with the committee president Md Delwar Hossain in the chair. Business leaders Md Gias Uddin Bhuiyan, Babu Jagannath Baishnab and Md Sarwar Alam spoke.

### BTA new committee

A five-member committee of Bangladesh Tea Association (BTA), Chittagong, was formed for the year 2003-2004 here on Saturday.

The committee was formed at its 43rd annual meeting at the principal office with central executive committee member SS Itekar Ahmed in the chair. The office-bearers are: President -- Sarwar Kamal Chowdhury (re-elected), Vice-president -- Quazi Arfan Ullah, Members -- M K Park (re-elected), Md Belayet Hossain (re-elected) and SS Roy.

### 10-point demand for three-wheelers

Chittagong Autorickshaw, Tempo Owners-Drivers Oikya Parishad at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Saturday announced 10-point demand to lessen their harassment and sufferings.

The Parishad also threatened a dawn-to-dusk strike in Chittagong city on October 9 unless measures are taken immediately.

The demands include an end to police harassment in the name of checking and examining of documents, issuance of road permit simultaneously with the registration, tax-token and fitness, duty free import of 2000 four-stroke three wheelers in Chittagong and measures for providing bank loan on easier condition.

Parishad General Secretary Nazrul Islam Sarker read out the written statement at the press conference where Parishad President Md Abul Kashem Sarker and Executive President Babul Datta spoke.

### Depository registration for CSE

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) achieved Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) Registration for providing full Central Depository Service throughout the country on Wednesday.

CSE would start activities of Central Depository Bangladesh

### CWE gets BAWE membership

Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs (CWE) got the membership of British Association of Women Entrepreneurs (BAWE), a front organisation of World Association of Women Entrepreneurs.

BAWE National President Arlene Wartroze announced it when CWE President Monowara Hakim Ali made a courtesy call on her in Britain recently, says a press release here on Wednesday.

The BAWE president also invited CWE president to attend the eight-day FCEAM Conference beginning in Mauritius on October 1 as a British delegate.

Arlene Wartroze also assured CWE of all out support and cooperation in arranging training for women entrepreneurs of Bangladesh and organising fair to help expand market and establish communications with other international organisations.



CWE President Monowara Hakim Ali met BAWE National President Arlene Wartroze.

Limited (CDBL) through its own technology wide network area soon and would be rendering full central depository service, sources said.

With this, CDBL provided four financial firms with the SEC registrations so far. The other three firms are Standard Chartered Bank, Mona Financial Consultancy and Securities Ltd. and Intiaz Hossain and Company.

### Cox's Bazar R&H staff, contractors begin agitation

Officials, employees and contractors of Roads and Highways (R&H) Department in Cox's Bazar began an

indefinite agitation programme on Thursday protesting the decision to hand over construction and maintenance work of 9000 km roads from R&H to Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) there.

Diploma engineers, officials, employees, workers and contractors of R&H, Cox's Bazar announced the agitation programme under the banner of Karmakarta Karmachari and Thikadar Oikya Parishad.

As a part of the programme, the Parishad was observing two-hour work abstention and holding rally everyday.

At a rally on the R&H office premises on Thursday, the Parishad leaders termed decision as a conspiracy. They threatened to continue the agitation and forge greater movement if their demand was not met immediately.



Saintilla, an event management group, organised a fashion show and cultural evening at the Chittagong Club auditorium on Friday to raise funds for anti-AIDS campaign.



Former CU Vice Chancellor Prof Alamgir Md Sirajuddin addresses the inaugural function of Citibank-Prothom Alo Inter-school Debate Competition at Shilpakala Academy auditorium here on Sunday.