

Rain stops concreting Chaktai canal bed

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Renovation and concrete soling of Chaktai Khal (canal) have been suspended due to rain aggravating waterlogging in the port city.

It causes immense sufferings to about five lakh people living along the canal as well as financial losses. Tk 15 crore project for concreting the canal bed was taken in 2002 to ease waterlogging and inundation in the port city. The last phase of the work began last year.

The Chaktai along with 11 other canals, including Jamal Khan Khal, Mirza Khal, Hizra Khal and Chatterswary Khal, drains out the rainwater as well as sewer water from 20 square kilometre areas in the city and was considered as the backbone of the city's drainage system.

But, due to non-completion of the renovation and soling work, the canal becomes silted up to overflow and flood the neighbouring areas, including the traditional business hubs of Chaktai-Khatunganj.

At the same time waterlogging and inundation cause untold sufferings and huge loss of properties of the city dwellers even after a medium scale downpour with onset of the rainy season.

The work for concrete soling of four kilometers of the canal stretching Dewan Bazar C&B Bridge to Chaktai Bridge No. 1 was going on under the last phase.

Under the project re-excavation and construction of retaining walls on both the sides of the canal from Dhupinirpole to Khalerpole (Chaktai bridge No. 1) could be made so far.

Some 1000 metres of canal bed from Bahodderhat point could be concreted before the tender was floated for the concrete soling of the rest four kilometer of the canal in September last year, sources said.

The concrete soling, however, under the last phase started in January this year after an elapse of three months of six-month time (October to March) considered as the most suitable for construction

work, said the sources. With a view to completing the work, the project implementing authority of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) through fresh tender in March deployed more contractors.

The contractors engaged workers in some 100 groups to concrete the canal bed 100 feet each, said the sources at CCC.

They made around 100 cross-dams on the canal bed leaving a very narrow space for passage of water.

Meanwhile, the Chaktai Canal Bed Concreting Committee at a meeting on May 9 decided to continue the work despite rains amid opposition by several members of the committee.

As the work continued rain created waterlogging in the city due to so cross-dams on May 12, said Shahriar Khaled, a member of the committee. It prompted the committee to postpone the work, he said.

"And with the onset of rainy season it has rather become imper-

ative to remove the cross-dams that now cause serious waterlogging and inundation in the city," said Shahriar, also general secretary of Chaktai Khal Rakkhma (protection) Committee.

The suspension of the work might cause the CCC an additional amount of Tk 60 lakh for re-excavation in October, he said.

The city dwellers blamed belated work order for suspension of the work at the middle and the aggravated waterlogging and inundation.

On the other hand, CCC sources said they could not start the work timely due to non-availability of fund from the government.

The CCC started the work with its own fund, a CCC official said. "We are yet to get the allocated money from the government," he added.

He blamed the dumping of garbage, stockpiling of logs, bamboos and consequent accumulation of mud at the outlet of the canal near the river Karnaphuli for the situation.



The cross-dams erected at different points in Chaktai Khal (canal) block passage of water, causing flood in neighbouring areas and waterlogging in the city.



Work on Tailer Dwp link road has been going on for six years, delaying the opening of Tailer Dwp Bridge on the river Shankha for movement of vehicular traffic. Although construction of the bridge linking Banshkhal and Anwara upazilas was completed around one and a half years ago, non-completion of the link road at the Banshkhal end of the bridge forces thousands of people to cross the river by ferry everyday.

One-Stop Crisis Centre yet to start functioning at CMCH

DWAIPAYAN BARUA
The One-stop Crisis Centre (OCC) is yet to start functioning even after six months of its installation at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The OCC aims at providing essential medical services and legal supports to the oppressed women of the society as well as their rehabilitation. Such centre started functioning on experimental basis in Dhaka and Rajshahi medical college hospitals in August 2001 and June 2002.

But OCC is yet to start its operation at Chittagong Medical College Hospital due to lack of apparatus in the DNA laboratory, sources said. The recruitment of doctors in the OCC on deputation is under process while five nurses and a computer operator have been appointed there.

The staffs appointed in February along with three police personnel to keep record of the allegation of the oppressed women at OCC are now

passing idle time. The OCC is a part of the multi-sectoral programme of the government on violence against women and children.

The Ministry of Woman and Children Affairs is implementing the programme in collaboration with five other ministries, including Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The programme implementation unit at the directorate of Women and Children Affairs established in Dhaka in 2000 is mainly responsible for the day-to-day management and running activities under the programme at OCC.

Danida, a Danish donor agency, is funding the programme in support of the government.

Under the programme, six One Stop Crisis Centres will be set up in the medical college hospitals in six divisional towns to provide emergency care, treatment, legal support,

forensic investigation, counselling and shelter service for the oppressed women.

The OCC function at three other medical college hospitals in Barishal, Sylhet and Khulna is under process.

The process of setting up OCC on the first floor of CMCH has been completed in January this year.

The eight-bed centre has a DNA test laboratory, computer section, doctors and nurses' room, a room for police members and a spacious visitors' room.

Sources said the centre was scheduled to open on April 29 by Health Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain when he inaugurated ten new units and installations at CMCH at a cost of Tk 32 crore.

But, the OCC could not be inaugurated, as the process of recruiting doctors and installation of equipments was not completed.

Many of the authorities involved with the implementation of the programme have even no prelimi-

nary knowledge about the OCC activities in Chittagong, sources said.

When contacted Niva Hoque, an officer at the department of Women and Children Affairs in Chittagong, expressed her ignorance about such programme and installation of a centre at CMCH.

Later, she said CMCH authorities will maintain everything about the project.

Paruma Begum, an officer of Social Welfare department at CMCH, said she doesn't know anything about the programme.

CMCH Director Brigadier General Abedur Rahman, however, said the recruitment of doctors on deputation is under process.

Brigadier Rahman visited Malaysia in April to see the OCC activities there.

He said, "It is a lengthy process to create posts for doctors or recruitment on deputation."

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Rotary Club donation

Rotary Club of Chittagong Mid City on Wednesday donated Tk 30,000 to Chittagong Maa O Shishu General Hospital for its nutrition project.

The Club President Syed Foyezur Rahman handed over a cheque to the hospital executive committee president Prof ASM Fazlul Karim at a function at Chittagong Club.

General Secretary Dr Anjumana Ara Islam, Managing Director of Asia Group Habib Mohiuddin, Nur Mohammed, SKS Wadud Ullah Chowdhury, Khorshedul Haque, Dr Abdus Salam and Sazzad Mohammed Chowdhury were present in the function.

Tree plantation programme of Muslim Welfare Society

A month-long tree plantation programme launched here on Friday. Bangladesh Muslim Welfare Society has taken up the programme with the slogan "Plant Tree, Save the Environment."

Central Coordinator of the Society M Haider Ali inaugurated the programme at city's War Symmetry Park.

A total of 30,000 trees will be planted during the programme, organisers said.

Later, an inauguration ceremony was also held on the park premises with the Society Vice Chairman Mohammed Shahab Uddin in the chair.

Founder general secretary M Nazim Uddin Chowdhury Anel, Prof Kasem Ibne Sultan, Organising Secretary HM Shahidullah, Nasir Ullah Pavel, north district coordinator Mohammed Zakaria Chowdhury and Abul Hasnat Manik were present in the inaugural ceremony.

Ctg Hawkers' Union executives

Obaidul Haque Majumdar and Joynal Abedin were elected president and general secretary of Chittagong Newspaper Hawkers' Union (CNHU) at

the biannual election held on Thursday. Obaidul Haque bagged 161 votes while his nearest candidate Abu Taher got 153 votes.

Joynal Abedin bagged 215 votes while his nearest contestant Dawdul Islam got 90 votes.

Other office-bearers are: Vice President: Jahed Hossain, Joint Secretary: Ali Akbar Majumdar, Organising Secretary: Subal Chandra Das, Treasurer: Abul Bashar, Office Secretary: Osman Gani and Publicity Secretary: Rois Mian.

Executive committee members are: Ranjit Kumar Nath, Oli Ahmad, Abu Taher and Delwar Hossain.

Twenty-five candidates contested the election for 12 posts. The election was held at the CNHU Office from 9:00am to 6:00pm where a total of 333 voters out of 354 exercised

their franchise. Journalist Anjan Kumar Sen conducted the election as the election commissioner.

CUDS debate workshop begins

A month-long debate workshop began at Chittagong University (CU) Central Library auditorium on Tuesday.

Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) organised the workshop in association with Executive Care, an English language centre in the city.

CUDS Moderator Associate Professor Dr Mahbulul Haque inaugu-



Artistes of Nritya Shilpi Sangstha, a cultural organisation, perform a dance number at a function organised by the district administration at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy auditorium to mark the birth anniversary of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam on Friday.



Installation works of Dhali Al Mamun put on a display at a six-day exhibition titled "Dialogue" that began at the Alliance Française auditorium in the city on Saturday.

Exhibition begins

A six-day long exhibition titled "Dialogue" began at Alliance Française in Chittagong on Saturday.

The installation works by Prof Dhali Al Mamun of Chittagong University (CU) Fine Arts Department aims at initiating a dialogue between different elements and rituals of our society and culture.

It is also designed to present a comprehensive observation of the contemporary situation with metaphorical manipulations of local elements and methods.

The artist collected the elements from the surrounding world, different local issues, traditional methods and technologies have been incorporated with it. The elements are sand-casting, welding and tin-art.

The artist was awarded the Grand Prize at Asian Biennale 2006 held in Dhaka in March for this installation.

Seminar on Penicillin

A seminar titled "Why Penicillin and Chlorompanical are endangered?" was held in the city on Monday.

Bangladesh Homeopathic Parishad Chittagong City unit organised the seminar at Azam Complex at city's Dewanhat area.

CUDS President Tazul Islam and General Secretary Usasa-A-Chak spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

Dr Jasim Uddin presented the keynote paper in the seminar with Parishad President Dr Mridul Kanti Dey in the chair.

Speakers at the seminar said that both the penicillin and chlorompanical are experimented medicine.

Simple injection of the medicines acts better against disease like bronchitis and gastritis in human body, they added.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Bhuyian, Dr Sujit Devnath, Dr Jakia Sultana, Dr Nusrat Jahan Baby and Dr Mostafizur Rahman spoke at the seminar.