

## Growing CU commuters add to suffering

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Sufferings of students have increased manifold with the enrollment of 3000 more in first year honours classes as they are to struggle in transports to go to

Chittagong University (CU) everyday.

Located around 22 kilometres off the port city, the university has capacity to accommodate around 6,000 students, out of 16,000, in nine dormitories and some private cottages on the campus,

forcing the rest to stay out of campus.

Around 10,000 students are to depend on transports to attend their classes.

They shuttle back and forth between the port city and the university campus and two shut-

tle trains are making four to five round trips everyday.

Besides, there are some age-old maxis, buses and mini buses, locally known as Tori, plying this route hardly offering the students a comfortable journey.

The shuttle trains each with eight 120-seat compartments carry students more than its capacity in rush hour everyday, risking their lives.

When the trains leave Sholoshahar railway station in the morning or CU railway station in the afternoon, no space is left to allow even a single person to stand inside the compartments, the students said.

Many students are forced to travel climbing the rooftops or sitting on the windows risking lives when they are in a hurry to attend important classes, examinations or reach home and fall victim to accidents often.

Three people, including a student of Finance Department, were injured when they fell from the roof of the Chittagong city-bound shuttle train on November 30.

The accident occurred when cables of satellite connections threw them off the rooftop near Sholoshahar Railway Station.

Mohammed Zahidul Islam, a

student of arts faculty said, "It's too tough to attend the classes in the morning when they virtually have to fight to get on the trains."

On the other hand, many of the guardians are reluctant to enrol their wards in the university only due to the transport crisis.

While travelling by the shuttle train Engineer Khairul Alam, who came here from Rajshahi along with his admission-seeking daughter, expressed his frustration over means of transportation.

"If my daughter qualifies in the admission test I'll have to think whether it would be wise to send my daughter to this university for the transportation hassle the students are facing," said Khairul.

"Making journey in such a packed shuttle train is very tough and terrific, particularly for a female student," he said.

Proctor Dr Didarul Alam Chowdhury said the university authorities are trying to increase trips of the shuttle trains.

"Recently we have sent a letter to the railway authorities to start two more trips in the morning and the afternoon," he said.

"A university team will meet the railway authorities in this regard soon," said the proctor.



Many students are forced to travel on the roof of shuttle trains because of the growing number of students in Chittagong University.



Farzana Hossain, inset, a student of Chittagong Photo Art Institute and member of Photo Artist Club, wins the first prize for her photo titled 'Long Reach' in colour section at the International Photograph Competition-2005 on 'Images of Health and Disability' organised by World Health Organisation (WHO).

## Halishahar lacks civic amenities

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Over one lakh inhabitants of Halishahar Housing Estate and its adjoining areas have been suffering much for long as the locality lacks amenities of a city.

The locality, the biggest residential area in the port city, is beset with dilapidated roads and streets, water crisis, salinity in water and erratic power supply. Besides, there is no proper transport service from here to other city areas.

These problems have recently gone beyond all limits of tolerance.

The dwellers of different blocks, including A, B, J, I, H, New I and adjoining wards like South Kattali, North Halishahar and Rampur are the worst sufferers.

The school and college students, office goers and garment workers of these areas are facing severe transport problems for lack

of bus service in two link roads -- Dewanhat to Failyatalabazar via Nayabazar and Dewanhat to Olankar Intersection -- that connect this zone with other key areas of the port city.

Commuters mostly depend on a very few number of tempos and CNG-run auto-rickshaws to reach workplace in the city centre.

Rajib Khan Subha, a resident of H-block, was standing at Dewanhat Intersection on Saturday morning for a tempo to return home from his office at Anderkilla.

Rajib said he is hardly able to reach office in time as he is to change three vehicles from his residence daily.

"I usually go to Nayabazar Moor by a rickshaw from my residence, then to Dewanhat by a tempo and finally reach my office by a city service bus," he said, adding that his sufferings will lessen if a bus service is launched from

South Kattali or Nayabazar to Bahaddarhat or any other destinations."

Despite having route permit to ply Nayabazar to Oxyzen via Dewanhat and Newmarket, most of the tempos stop at Dewanhat and Newmarket, causing much of the sufferings to Halishahar people.

The people of these areas submitted a memorandum to the City Bus Minibus Hauler Association leaders for launching a bus service on August 14 in this regard, which has not yet been entertained.

Association leader Abdul Hakim said they are taking preparation for necessary steps in this regard.

The people also suffer from acute water crisis as Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa), Chittagong did not take any step to ensure adequate supply of water in the area.

People are to buy deep tube

well water at a higher price that ranges between Tk 50 to Tk 70 per drum for their daily uses.

"The tube well and deep tube well water is salty and full of iron," said Abu Syed Sohel, a resident of South Kattali.

Students and business community here are victims of serious loadshedding for the last few years as there is no sign of any immediate remedy to their grievances.

"Sometimes we get confused whether we live in a city or in a village as we are to experience serious loadshedding all the year," said Suman, a student of Chittagong University and inhabitant of A-block.

Siddique Ahmad Chowdhury and Kabir Ahmed, ward commissioners of South Kattali and Rampur wards urged the authorities concerned to take proper measures to improve the conditions of the locality.



A dilapidated road at Halishahar residential area, left, while people travel to different city areas in loaded tempo, right.

## theweekthatwas

### New diabetic insulin launched

A symposium on "Optimal Diabetes Management: From Dream to Reality"



Dr ASM Towhidul Alam speaks at the launching ceremony of new insulin called NovoMix 30 FlexPen at a local hotel on Friday.

was held at a local hotel here on Friday marking the launching of new insulin called NovoMix 30 FlexPen.

Novo Nordisk A/S Bangladesh launched the new insulin product for diabetic patients to enable them better diabetes management.

Earlier, it was launched in Dhaka at a

ceremony on December 13.

Prof Md Gofranul Hoque of Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) was present as the chairperson of the symposium while MA Rahman, national sales manager of Novo Nordisk A/S, gave address of welcome.

Dr ASM Towhidul Alam and Dr Abdus Saleque Mollah of Chittagong Medical College (CMC), conducted the scientific sessions on "NovoMx 30-Biphasic Insulin Aspart: The premixed insulin analogue, an essential insulin" and "Early Insulin Initiation in Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus" respectively.

They said the number of diabetes patients in Bangladesh is on rise and stressed taking proper insulin or treatment to check it.

Khandaker Shamim Rahman and Sandeep Sur, both product and country manager of Novo Nordisk A/S, were present at the symposium.

### Education materials for orphans

Speakers at a function in the port city on Thursday urged the affluent of the society to extend their helping hands towards the well-being of the poor people.

Inner Wheel Club of Chittagong organised the programme at Islamabad Girls' Orphanage auditorium where a good quantity of education materials,

including books, papers, pencils, pens and other items, were handed over to the orphans.

Club President Tahmina Banu chaired the function. Columnist and journalist Iskander Ali Chowdhury was present as the chief guest while Rotarians Golam Faruk and Tahera Chowdhury were special guests.

### Marks-Drishy children's festival ends

A two-day Marks-Drishy Shishu Utsab and Mina Bazar concluded in the port city on Monday.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, arranged the festival in cooperation with Marks Full Cream Milk Powder of Abul Khair Group on the District Shishu Academy premises.

Head of Human Resources of the Abul Khair Group Saleh U Ahmed inaugurated the festival while former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Farid Ahmed Chowdhury was present as the chief guest in the ceremony.

Media personality Lucky Inam was the chief guest at the prize giving ceremony.

The programmes included recitation, painting, dance and debate competition for the child and adolescents.

Around 1,500 students from 57 educational institutions took part in the events.

Artists of Nilashary Khelaghar Asar, Child Heaven School, Abasar Sangskritik Gosthi, Sonar Tori of Fulki, Noren Abritti Academy, Prama Abritti Sangsad, Oxbridge International School, Nrittan Dance Institute, Mastermind International School, Sunshine Grammar School and Drishy Chattagram enthralled the audiences with their cultural performances.

### Seminar on crisis management held

A daylong seminar on 'Crisis Management' organised by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), Chittagong unit was held at a local hotel on Friday.

Premier University Vice Chancellor Prof Anupam Sen inaugurated the seminar with Shovit Bikash Barua in the chair.

Senior fellow and former president of ICMAB Muhammad Mohiuddin presented the theme paper.

Prof Md Abdul Hannan Meah of Dhaka University, Minher Group of Companies Executive Director Md Saifur Rahman Majumder, and Dr Kanchan Kumar Purohit and Prof Md Selimuddin of Chittagong University presented technical papers at the seminar.

Former ICMAB President Rafique Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank General Manager Harunur Rashid and ICMAB President Satipati Moltra also spoke.

### Kaiser Jamal new Kafco CEO

The management of Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (Kafco) appointed Muhammad Qaiser Jamal as chief executive officer.

Jamal is a chemical engineer, business professional and environmentalist with 30 years experience in

petroleum oil refining and briefly container terminal industries.

Prior to joining Kafco, he worked in Pakistan and had been the managing director of National Refinery Limited, chairman of State Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Corporation, chief executive officer of Karachi International Container Terminal and chairman of Oil Companies Advisory Committee. Jamal attended various international symposia, conferences and training programmes.



Muhammad Qaiser Jamal