

Anti-pollution drive

NURUL ALAM

A vested quarter is lobbying to halt the two-year drive against the vessels responsible for oil spills and dumping waste in the Chittagong port, port officials said.

The vested quarter in the shipping circle lodged complaints with the higher authorities, saying that the anti-pollution drive is hampering the shipping business, they added.

Port officials said the drive had not affected the shipping trade at all, rather it helped reduce pollution in port areas in the sea and it would continue.

Over 600 vessels including 100 foreign flag carriers were fined for oil spills and dumping waste at Chittagong port channel, jetties and surrounding areas during the anti-pollution drive in the past two years, they said.

About Tk 50 lakh was realised as fine from the ships found responsible for pollution at Chittagong port. The port team

A vested quarter is active against the drive . Over 600 vessels, including foreign flag carriers, were fined for causing oil spills and dumping waste at Chittagong port.

made sudden drive and took punitive action against the vessels for pollution.

The court of port magistrate summoned the master and crew on various occasions for causing oil spills and dumping wastes from the vessels.

The vessels calling at Chittagong port and the mechanised boats operating in the river Karnaphuli and the sea were blamed for the oil spills.

The marine lives were threatened due to oil pollution in the sea. The Karnaphuli river was badly polluted and this issue was talked about in different seminars and symposiums here. But little was done to save the river Karnaphuli.

The drive began two years ago against the backdrop of reckless pollution by some cargo vessels calling at Chittagong port. The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)

launched the drives frequently led by its magistrate. About 1500 vessels call at Chittagong port annually, port reports said. According to Chittagong port Act, it is a punishable offence if anybody found causing pollution in the port limit areas. But the Act was not implemented properly in this regard, sources said. The problem had been almost ignored for the last 50 years. The CPA played a silent role all these years in this regard. It launched the anti-pollution drive two years back at the instruction of higher authorities after a series of reports in newspapers, sources added. Port officials said the drive has reduced the pollution following oil spillage and dumping of wastes.

The CPA has taken some precautionary measures including early warning to the vessels against oil spill and dumping of wastes, officials said.

Moreover, measures have been taken to keep surveillance on the vessels calling at Chittagong port, they added.



Plume of smoke emits from a foreign vessel at a Chittagong port area. CPA magistracy punished the ship for causing massive air pollution.

Structure to block drain



Construction is going on for extension of a bus terminal (Rangamati, Khagrachhari) on a drain beside busy Muradpur road in the city.

SAHIDUL ISLAM

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) once again seems to ignore the aesthetic setting of port city.

It is constructing a structure on the drain along the highway at city's busy Muradpur area in an unplanned way to extend the booking centre of the Chittagong-Rangamati Bus Stand.

The bus stand on the road of bustling Muradpur and adjoining areas itself was set up illegally a few years back reportedly at the behest of some influential bus owners.

Local people fear the construction may create water-logging to a greater extent and play havoc on the inhabitants in and around the area during the monsoon. "This is another instance of CCC's insensible work and sheer ignorance of the visual beauty of the city," Nazrul Islam, a timber businessman of the area, said.

"We even had objected to the illegal erection of bus stand on the busy highway but all efforts went in vain," he added.

Abul Kashem, another local businessman, said "This area had already earned a bad name of a water-clogging zone of the city mostly due

to insensible building of structures at whims." The new construction blocking the important drain would only add further misery to our sufferings, Kashem added.

When contacted CCC chief engineer Abu Taher expressed his ignorance about the on-going construction and said "I took charge of present office only recently and I am not sure if any such work order was given from my office." Taher previously was the superintendent engineer of the CCC. He told this correspondent to contact estate officer or an executive engineer to have proper information on the matter.

Estate officer Ahmedul Haque, however, said "It is just an extension of the booking centre and it would neither block the natural flow of sewerage nor it would slim the span of the drain." Haque said there are many structures on the drain already there for long and the Tk.2 lakh current construction was being done at the request of bus owners.

He, however, said these structures are somewhat 'unplanned' and can not be desirable for the greater interest of a big city. He suggested immediate shifting of all the bus terminals from city centres outside the city to give a better look of Chittagong.

SSC results under Ctg Board

MOHIT UL ALAM

The recently published S.S.C. results are a bit ominous for the educational future.

Two thirds of the candidates have failed, and under Chittagong Board the percentage of pass was only 35.12 (and the nation's 36 per cent), which means out of 68,502 candidates only 24061 have passed.

What happens to the unsuccessful candidates, and their guardians, is a big national question that should be immediately addressed.

For long we have been criticising our educational system, as it is based not on a pursuit of knowledge but on a pursuit of marks. And in the present grade-point-average (GPA) system it can be considered as a pursuit of grades because the past fascination for merit list is now replaced by another equally negative notion-- the GPA 5.

The tendency, therefore, has been to render teaching not in order to help the students grow their understanding about life and the world but to make them depend more solely on the retention power of their memory, so that they can

regurgitate their learning in the examination hall. This has been done consistently and systematically destroying the original thinking and creative powers of the students.

For over many decades now this primarily memory-based competitive pattern has been the focus of our national curriculum at the school, college, university, and superior-service examination levels, and the outcome is nothing short of a national disaster.

In the present context of the global pressure for modernisation, our best products seem to be not good enough to meet the needs of the country. Our professionals, the very best of them, have been proved on many occasions to be failing in their jobs. This legacy of producing bodies of incompetent students is still continuing.

Incompetence does not, however, grow alone, with it the accompanying vices follow laziness, inertia, cheating on duty, unaccountability, falsifying, forgery, nepotism, group politics, aggression, verbosity, and high-handedness, to name only some.

There must be a philosophy of education, the bottom line of

which should be that students come to the school to understand and not to memorise. Another part of this is that they come to the school not to fail, but to pass, yes, all of them.

As an experiment, the sitting examination requirement may be totally withdrawn from the examination system, because it is the root of all miss-education. Let a student be graded every week, every month in his respective school on the basis of his class attendance, class performance and written assignments and let the accumulated grades of the year be his final result for promotion to the next class. This will reduce the percentage of unsuccessful students to a large degree.

Let this national mayhem of our young students in the name of S.S.C., H.S.C., and Degree Pass be at once stopped. It is a headache, not a matter of pride that so many students every year should fail.

The educational environment in schools, the quality of teaching, students' access to knowledge, and freeing educational governance from party politics are areas awaiting action.

theweekthatwas

Ctg Club swimming pool opens

The modern swimming pool of Chittagong Club Limited opened on Thursday. GOC 24 Infantry Division and Chittagong area commander Major General Maysan U Ahmed PSC unveiled the plaque at a ceremony where Suwat Tantipat, the governor of Thai northern province of Chiang Mai, was special guest.

Club Chairman Dr. Moinul Islam Mahmud in his presidential speech said after modernisation the swimming pool would now be usable throughout the year instead of six months. He thanked Mohammad Musa Mia, Chairman of Kuliarchar Group and a club member, for financial cooperation in modernising and renovating the swimming pool that would now provide hot water in the winter and cool water in the

summer.

Rangamati Timber Merchants executives

The sixth triennial election of Rangamati Timber Merchants Cooperative Society was held at its Banorupa office in the Rangamati town on Thursday. Hazi Md. Abdul Khaleq and Abul Hashem Abu were elected president and general secretary in the 9-member managing committee.

The other members are vice-president Nurul Islam Talukder, assistant general secretary poet Shawon Farid, office secretary Nurul Alam (unopposed) and treasurer Shahidullah Kazol. Members are Manik Ratan Nath, Shamim Ahmad and Sirajul Islam.

Construction of



A colourful motor procession paraded the streets of the port city on Thursday to mark marketing of Mountain Dew - a new product of beverage company of Pepsi.

WTC by this yr

The construction work of the proposed World Trade Centre here would start by the end of this year.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury said this at the Chittagong chamber annual general meeting at its auditorium here on Thursday.

Besides, CCCI would continue its efforts for upgrading Chittagong as the commercial capital in true sense, the AGM was told. CCCI president conducted the AGM.

Ctg-Rangamati BRTC bus service

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation introduced new bus service in Chittagong-Rangamati on Monday.

While inaugurating the service, BRTC manager (operations) Md. Almas Ali said though service started with only two buses it would be increased soon and ply in the route from dawn to dusk. Ticket price was fixed at Tk. 50 per head.

Publication ceremony

Everyone should have some primary knowledge on Registration Act. Common people are very often deceived while getting lands registered due to lack of knowledge about it. The speakers told the publication ceremony of a book on land registration at Chittagong District Council auditorium in the city on Saturday.



Chief Justice KM Hasan addresses as chief guest on Thursday a workshop on "Mediation techniques: Alternative dispute resolution in the civil justice delivery system in Bangladesh". Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs organised the workshop at a city hotel.

The speakers also called upon the authority concerned for updating the Manuals introduced during British regime here.

The speakers said beside information about land registration, the book "Kilodhwar" by Syhet District Register K A T M Aman Ullah also discussed a lot about document writing, document attestation and different errors and mix-up in them.

Free medical camp at Raozan

A medical camp was organised to provide eye and E.N.T. treatment free of cost at Sultanpur Emdadul Islam Nurane KG School auditorium in Raozan on Thursday. Lions Club of Chittagong, Imperial

City and Lions Charitable Eye Hospital organised the medical camp in cooperation with the Raozan Club. Lions Governor Lions Alhaj Rafiq Ahmad in his address as chief guest at the inaugural function said coming forward to the service of distressed humanity is a demand of the time.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) president Mostaque Ahmed, also bureau chief of the Dainik Inqilab, was special guest at the ceremony with Obayedul Haq Master in the chair.

DGM, six other REB officials sued

Fatikchhari Rural Electricity Consumers Welfare Samity filed a case against seven officials including the DGM of Rural Electrification Board (REB) on Wednesday.

Senior vice president of the samity and former president of Bibrhat Bank Samity, Nechchar Ahmad Chowdhury filed the case with Fatikchhari Senior Assistant Judge's Court alleging different irregularities including realisation of unjustified meter fares.

Teachers observe hunger strike

Teachers of Kazem Ali High School near Chittagong College in the city observed a token hunger strike on the press club premises on Wednesday demanding immediate payment of nine months' arrears of salaries.

Teachers, students of other schools and political leaders also expressed their solidarity with the hunger strike that continued till 2pm.

At a rally during the strike the agitating teachers alleged misappropriation of school fund and huge corruption by the headmaster that made the financial condition of the institution a fragile one.

Later, Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) president Professor Dr. A N M Munir Ahmed broke the hunger strike offering drinks to the teachers.

6 businessmen go to India for training

A team of six businessmen left for India on Tuesday for a one month's training on poultry hatchery management at Dr. Reverao Poultry Management and Technology Institute, Punay (Poonay). The participants are from M M Aga Limited, Nasrin Breeder Farm & Hatchery and Haq Poultry & Hatchery

Limited. They are participating in the training with the assistance of Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Project (ATDP).

End delay in gas supply to garments

The leaders of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Chittagong region, at a meeting urged Bakharabad Gas Systems Limited (BGS) to solve different problems relating to gas supply to garments factories.

BGMEA leaders also called for an end to delay in providing gas connection in new factories, cancellation of minimum and maximum loading system in gas billing and approval of gas connection from

BGSL, Chittagong regional office.

Lili Photogenic beauty contest

Lili Cosmetics is going to organise Lili Photogenic Chittagong '03 for the first time in the port city this year. Intended candidates aging over 15 years of the division have been requested to send their three photographs (Close-up face, half and full views) and CV (written on white paper) by post or by hand by July 31, says a press release here recently. Photographs and CV should address Multi Vision Production House, 868, Mehedibug Road (1st floor), Chittagong. Phone no. 018-3833365, 0172-033220.



Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan shakes hands with Suwat Tantipat, governor of Thai northern province of Chiang Mai, after signing of MOU between Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), Chiang Mai chamber and Federation of Thai Industries, Chiang Mai chapter at CCCI auditorium here on Friday.