

Remove navy installation from Patenga channel

Probe body on ship accident recommends

MOHIT UL ALAM

A cargo ship from Panama and a Bangladeshi ship had an unfortunate head-on collision at the mouth of the river Karnafuli near BNS Flotilla on September 21. It caused heavy damage to themselves, as well as to 18 navy ships, incurring a loss of Tk.175 crore.

A probe body has submitted its report to the Chairman, Chittagong Port Authority, blaming the Panamanian ship directly, and the Bangladesh ship indirectly, for the accident. The probe body also recommended the removal of navy installation from the channel.

The channel is the Patenga Channel that connects the Karnafuli with the Bay of Bengal. The Karnafuli enters

Chittagong creating a large curve at the Patenga seashore. From Patenga, the south bank of the Karnafuli looks to be miles away, and the open sea westward provides one of world's best scenic sights. But, not any more, because the boundary wall of the naval academy cruelly rounds off the beautiful tip of the coast, preventing common people from standing there and enjoying the sunset.

This endless mass of water, however, seems to be of the most violent nature as the incoming currents from the sea and the outgoing currents from the river are in conflict with each other. The waterway therefore is dangerous for the harbouring vessels, and should be negotiated cautiously.

But as the vehicles on the roads prefer to ignore the traffic rules, so do the ships on the water. As the September 21 accident has been probed into, it looks like

the Panamanian cargo ship, the Eagle Strength, had rammed into an Bangladesh HRC ship, Banga Biraj, as it wanted to avoid demolishing a small ship which was in its way.

Though the probe body has failed to trace that unknown small vessel, it is clear that the river mouth does not provide enough space for big ships to maneuver. In fact, even to the plain eye, the Patenga Channel looks to be dotted with far too many stationery vessels that have caused a traffic jam.

The probe body has also recommended that the navy ships be shifted to a more comfortable corner of the Channel. This point needs to be reckoned with.

Chittagong Port is a very busy harbour for commerce and trade. But the naval establishments are just located there,

thus the mutual interference in each other's business has perhaps gone to an intolerable degree. It may be a practical idea to shift the naval base altogether to further south down the coast of Anwara.

Otherwise, it makes no sense why 18 very costly ships of BN should be damaged when two cargo ships had met with an accident. There must have been very close proximity between the BNS Flotilla position and the cargo jetty.

In the 1991 cyclone many naval vessels were destroyed as large cargo ships from outer anchorage dashed into the wharf by the force of the wind, and hit the naval base. That destruction at least had an explanation.

But, this loss seems to be a result of ill planning. And, ill planning seems to be the thing destroying our country in every way.



New Market area in the city.

Hawkers start occupying city footpaths

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The hawkers started occupying city roads here ahead of holy Ramadan due to the indifference of the authorities concerned.

They take the opportunity to capture the footpaths and every available open space on the streets with a view to extracting maximum benefits from the shoppers on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

A frenzy of competition also takes place among them over capture of footpaths. This sometimes leads to fights.

The law enforcing agencies and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) usually have turned a blind eye to this. The CCC, owner of the footpaths, is found to be generous enough to allow free-style capturing of footpaths.

The Chief Conservancy Officer of CCC, sometime, comes up with 'cautionary notices' through local newspapers against the occupiers. Such notices ended up in sheer

mockery of the advertisement. And the official concerned seems to have unmoved by the outcome of his warnings.

The footpaths at New Market, Reazuddin Bazar, Station Road, KC Dey Road, Chawk Bazar, Agrabad, Bandartilla, Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and Halishahar are the most awful sites.

It is very difficult to find an inch of space in these locations especially on the final quarter of Ramadan. And one must caught in a maze if asked to locate a footpath in front of Municipal High School near the New Market and the Darul Fazal Market, home to different party offices.

The footpath stretching from the Rifles Club and Aparna Charan Girls High School upto New Market Intersection, is virtually held occupied by the hawkers and makeshift traders for almost 365 days.

Authorities' inaction propels the vendors to overconfidence and arrogance. As a result, they

expand their businesses up to roads. At Municipal School point, the 40 feet road turns into a lane during Ramadan.

Mohammad Fazal, a vendor at the New Market point, said we don't have any other option but our only means to earn money for our poor families. Please don't write anything that can snatch this opportunity, he added.

We do businesses on footpaths by managing patrol police, Abdur Rahim, also a vendor, at Station Road said.

"We have instruction to keep the footpaths or streets clear throughout the year and we follow the order strictly through regular vigils and prompt actions, Assistant Commissioner (Detective Branch) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Mohammad Shafique Uddin Chowdhury said.

He, however, said there might have a few reversals.

The Conservancy Officer Saifuddin Mahmud Katabi could not be contacted for comments.

Medical representatives rule CMCH

NURUL ALAM

A large number of medical representatives of different pharmaceutical compa-

nies crowd the Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) during office hours causing a dislocation in medicare services there.

Despite restriction on their entry

before 12 noon, rush of hundreds of medical representatives has become a common phenomenon. They turn up on the hospital premises riding motor cycles at around 9 am daily to persuade the doctors for prescribing their medicines, sources said.

Their motorbikes are kept in queue on the hospital premises, witnesses said. The patients face problems as their doctors mostly give time to the visiting medical representatives.

A section of doctors entertain the medical representatives reportedly to get free supply of sample medicines and other gifts, sources said.

Those salesmen of pharmaceutical companies provide the doctors who have roaring practice, with mobile phones, air tickets, suiting cloth, saree and even cash to buy cars, sources added.

They also give pen, writing pad, visiting cards and paper weight to the concerned doctors, sources added.

Most of the doctors get convinced by those salesmen and prescribe the drugs manufactured by their companies.

CMCH Director Brigadier General Toufique Alam said the salesmen of pharmaceutical companies were asked not to enter the hospital premises to meet the

doctors before 12 noon.

"We have imposed restriction on them as we feel seriously disturbed. Our doctors face frequent interruption in their service to the patients in the wards. But they hardly follow the time-frame set by the hospital authorities," he said.

"Even I caught many of them while I was on round during duty hours and advised them not to create trouble violating the hospital rule," he added.

"I recovered a bag of a salesman from in front of a ward when he seemingly fled sensing my presence during ward visit," the director said.

Now we are thinking imposing total ban on their entry into CMCH, he said adding we will hold a meeting of the hospital management committee in this regard soon.

We also advised our doctors not to meet the medical representatives during duty hours as it hampers their works," he said.

The salesmen also reportedly try to convince nurses and ward boys who have link with the doctors for promoting their business.



Motorbikes of medical representatives on CMCH premises.

theweekthatwas

Odhikar O Unnayan Sammilan seeks cooperation

A three-day conference of the Odhikar O Unnayan Sammilan ended here on Thursday with a call to the government and members of the civil society for all out cooperation and support in its 'struggle for survival'.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was the chief guest at the concluding session of the Sammilan on the Muslim Institute premises.

A programme titled "Civic rights" began at the Sammilan Moncha with the projection of a video documentary at 3pm. A discussion meeting on struggle for survival was held. Representatives from all walks of life participated in the discussion.

Jahanara Begum, Maria Begum, Shrimati Tripura, Rizia Begum, Baby Akter and physically disabled Shahabuddin Raju shared experiences in their respective fields. Woman ward commissioner Rehana Kabir Ranu moderated the discussion.

Professor Dr. AQM Sirajul Islam, Professor Md. Jahangir and journalist Syed Omar Faruq were special guests in the meeting with Sammilan Parishad advisor journalist Muhammad Idris in the chair.

Dental check-up programme ends

A three-day dental check-up programme titled "Pepsodent Dental Check-up" for the family members of employees of Lever Brothers Bangladesh Limited at Kalurghat ended on Friday.

While inaugurating the programme on Wednesday Sanjib Meheta, chairman and managing director of Lever Brothers

Bangladesh Ltd, said the company through its Pepsodent brand had been creating awareness among the people about dental care. It reached dental care related information to some 20 lakh people in the past few years, he said.

Human Resource Director Abu Abdullah, Brand Manager Afzal Hasan Khan and Dental Service Manager Dr. AKM Shahnewaj and M Shahabuddin were present.

Training on painting, music

A training programme on 'painting and music' was held at Chittagong Press Club auditorium on Friday.

Chittagong Press Club organised the programme for the children of its members.

Renowned artist Monsoor Ul Karim inaugurated the training programme as the chief guest.

Monsoor Ul Karim in his speech said such programme will help the children illustrate their dream and imagination

and widen the field of thoughts. Only initiatives by the parents are enough to provide the children with scope to exercise their mind and become worthy citizens, he added.

With Press Club President Abu Sufian in the chair, Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) President Mostaq Ahmed, General Secretary Shahid Ul Alam, Press Club General Secretary Kalim Sarwar, addressed the function. Press Club Joint Secretary Rashed Rouf conducted the function while Cultural Secretary Rupam Chakraborti gave address of welcome.

Children's festival

A children's festival and writers' conference was held on the premises of JM Sen Hall at Rahmatganj in the city on Thursday.

The festival was to flourish the talents of children. Merriment, songs, dance and painting of children made the festival venue vibrant.

Renowned publication house of

Shailey Prokashan organised the festival in memory of its owner Shamim Akter Shimu who met a premature death few months back.

Many writers attended the festival. Renowned social scientist Dr. Anupam Sen of Chittagong University was the chief guest.

Litterateur Begum Fahmida Amin and child storywriter Ahsan Malek were special guests and guest of honour at the festival with academician and writer Principal Nilufar Zahur in the chair. Storywriter Bipul Barua and Chittagong Academy Director Professor Anwara Alam also spoke at the gathering.

TK. 20cr project for Cox's Bazar Airport

TK 20 crore project for expansion of runway and renovation of Cox's Bazar Airport would be implemented in phases. The work would start soon.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Md. Nasiruddin said this while he was inaugurating Motel Upal of Cox's Bazar town on Wednesday. The motel was inaugurated in a newer form and given under the private management of Farmtour International.

Mir Nasir said the government decided to give 1500 acres of land for hotel-motel zone of Cox's Bazar to the entrepreneurs from both home and abroad.

He expected some one lakh tourists in Cox's Bazar this season.

State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed was present as special guest at the inaugural function with Farmtour International Chairman R Mohammad Shah Sufian in the chair. Farmtour International took lease of the motel from Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) for fifteen years.

IUB Freshers' Day

Private universities produce something and provide service to people, increase the number of able persons and work for the people.

Referring to the initiatives taken by public and private universities in academic activities, speakers said this at the Freshers' Day programme of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Chittagong here on Tuesday.

AKM Rafiqul Islam, Chairman of Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust of IUB, Chittagong addressed the programme as chief guest. Dr. Richard Hopper, Education Specialist of the World Bank, Washington D.C. and IUB Governing Council member Habib Ullah Khan were special guests.

Chaired by IUB, Chittagong Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Bazul Mobin Chowdhury, the programme was also addressed by Professor Borhan Uddin, Professor Syed Salfarul Haq, Associate Research Director Dr. Ahmad A Abbasi and Deputy Registrar Syed Almas Kabir.

They called upon the students for utmost utilisation of the facilities and scope for education they were enjoying which were beyond imagination only a few decades back.

Penang to lease gantry cranes

Malaysia would import halal meats from Bangladesh while Penang Port (Pvt.) Limited would be ready to supply gantry cranes on lease basis, if required, for the improvement of Chittagong Port.

Dato Haji Ahmed Ibn Hazar, Managing Director, Penang Port (Pvt.) Ltd. of Malaysia said this when he was exchanging views with the members of Chittagong chamber and representa-



Young artistes perform at a function organised by Alauddin Lalitakala Academy at Muslim Institute auditorium on Monday.

tives from different port users' agencies here on Monday.

He said they were keen to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries for economic development and trying to identify prospective areas in trade and commerce as well.

Earlier, Chittagong chamber president Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury welcomed the visiting Malaysian delegation at the chamber auditorium.

Rupali Bank's corporate branch opens

Rupali Bank Limited opened a corporate branch and introduced a one-stop service here on Wednesday as part of government decision to upgrade Chittagong as the commercial capital.

Managing Director of the bank, Abdul Hamid Miah said Rupali Bank started its new journey in line with decision on commercial capital. Pressure on activities of the bank in

Dhaka would be lessened fast, he said. He also called upon the officials and employees of the bank to increase standard of service.

M Aminul Haq, Deputy General Manager, eastern region presided over the function. Salim Khan, SM Atiqur Rahman of the bank and Saiful Alam Masud and Abdus Samad Labu of S Alam Group were also present.

Pekua to have full-fledged sports complex

A full-fledged sports complex would be constructed at the cost of Tk. 3 crore at Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar.

State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmad MP said this while he was inaugurating a football tournament at Barbakia Adarsha School ground at the upazila on Friday.

He said the construction work of the sports complex would begin next month and when completed training on differ-

ent sports events like football, cricket, tennis, basketball and volleyball would be held there.

A ground was already made at the sports complex site at a cost of TK. 50 lakh, he added.

Workshop on Internship & Career Planning

A daylong workshop titled, "Internship & Career Planning" was held at commerce faculty of the Chittagong University (CU) on Tuesday.

Business Management Students' Club of the Department of Management organised the workshop for the outgoing MBA students as a part of its usual procedure.

The workshop included a discussion meeting that focused on the present day scenario of job market, potentiality of being entrepreneurs, tips on internship and a typical job interview.

Professor Anwarul Azim Arif, Professor Fasiul Alam, SM Khorshed Alam of Chittagong Garments Ltd. Farhed Abbas of FARKANTEX Ltd, Khwaja Mainuddin Farhad and Morshed of HSBC, Md. Jalal of Family Planning Ministry and a good number of entrepreneurs, teachers and students participated at the workshop.

Md. Abdullah Mamun, Chairman of Department of Management, gave the vote of thanks.