



Worn-out roads at Katalganj, left, and Halishahar. The roads go under water during rainy season and accidents are commonplace, but the authorities concerned are indifferent to the problems for years.

Residents of posh areas cry for civic amenities

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Thousands of residents at posh residential blocks built by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) are deprived of civic amenities like uninterrupted supply of drinking water, electricity and good road networks since long.

Continued crisis of drinking water, persistent loadshedding, waterlogging and roads in dilapidated conditions have made life miserable for people of the residential areas at Chandgon, Katalganj and Agrabad in the city.

"You may envy that we live in a so-called posh area but will be amazed to know that we pass our days amid untold miseries. We are

to face all sorts of civic problems everyday and I don't know whether the situation is similar to other places or not," said Mainul Haque, senior executive of a shipping firm and resident of Agrabad CDA Residential Area.

Mainul said I have, on many occasions, lodged complaints with WASA or PDB offices about water or power crisis in vain and by doing so, I'm a known face to the officials concerned.

"My tenacity and frequent visit to the offices sometimes brought remedies but the problem remains a perennial one throughout the year," he added.

Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, formerly a journalist, of Chandgon Residential Area said

"Because of bad condition of roads, I do never dare to ride on a rickshaw in front of my house. I usually take a 10 to 15-minute walk to reach main road to catch the vehicle," he added.

The blocks also lack a good drainage system causing environmental hazards. Besides, the drains of these areas are often found filled with sands and household wastes. As a result, the areas get inundated in the face of even a shower and it gets its worst during the monsoon.

The CDA built up Katalganj Residential Area in 1964, Agrabad in 1969, Chandgon in 1973, Salimpur in 1985, Karnaphuli in 1995, Chandgon (second phase) in 1999 and Kalpalok (first phase)

in 1999, sources said. A total of 5,000 residential plots of various sizes were developed in those areas, sources added.

Of the blocks, Katalganj, Chandgon and Agrabad have got the complete shape though they lag far behind the civic amenities.

Salimpur at the Fouzdarhat area in the city with all potential to grow up as an excellent residential block had not got the full-fledged shape for last two decades due to sluggishness of the authorities concerned as well as lack of infrastructural development and absence of security measures.

Karnaphuli, Chandgon (second phase) and Kalpalok blocks are yet to be developed by the CDA.

RANGAMATI

The bounty of nature

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN RIAD

Greater Chittagong has plenty of potentials to offer. And tourism is one that surely will top the lists. Rangamati, Kaptai, Bandarban and Khagrachhari are few such names enriched with exotic natural setting.

Yet, Rangamati is undoubtedly a bit different from among the spots so far aesthetic richness is concerned. Nestled around with zigzag hills, the greens all around, the serene lakes and the serpentine roads really beckon refreshing moments to the tourists, especially those who have penchant to go close to the nature. And once visited, any tourist will be tempted to make another come-back to Rangamati.

Tourists usually flock in great numbers to Rangamati each winter spanning three to four months from November. The period is called peak season for tourists when the tiny hill town

wears a festive look. Most of the cottages, lodges, hotels, motels, rest houses and bungalows become overcrowded with tourists from home and abroad during the season.

The Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) lodges and cottages are available in Rangamati for tourists to have a brief sojourn there. The rent for a single cottage of eight beds is Tk 1,500 a night while Tk 1,000 for a four-bed cottage.

"The fare is relatively cheaper if one considers the facilities we offer to the visitors," said a BPC official in Chittagong.

The private hotels, however, charge reasonable fare ranging between Tk 100 to Tk 300 for each night but they lag far behind the facilities the BPC offers. Many tourists are to stay in private low quality hotels as the number of tourists is much higher than the cottages, lodges

or rest houses can accommodate during the peak season in Rangamati.

"I travel Rangamati every winter and sometime I have to stay in low quality hotels, finding no space in cottages or lodges," said Shahidur Rahman, Public Relations Officer of Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex, a frequent visitor to the scenic town.

Rangamati has too many exciting spots to pay visit. A glimpse to the hanging bridge, Pedatingting, tribal museum, Rajbihar and Shubhalong fountain can make one's trip memorable.

Of the scenic spots, Shubhalong is the most attractive one because of its beautiful natural fountain and the sweet murmur from it. The fountain water incessantly gives delight to the travellers and feasts their eyes to witness nature's bounty. Wooden trowler is the lone

mode of transport to travel to Shubhalong from Rangamati hill district. It is a one hour and 15 minutes' journey to reach the coveted place, crossing over 20km waterways. The journey becomes more worthwhile when guest birds are found in all sorts of fun and frolic over the lake water. The tribal people also wave from their passing trowlers to the tourists as a gesture of greetings.

The Shubhalong Recreation Centre is another attraction. A mini zoo provides much pleasure to the children there. Tourists can take a sip of warmth and hot coffee and buy few items at the Coffee House in Shubhalong. There are also a number of shops in the district headquarters with attractive tribal commodities. They sell tribal dress, foods and other cultural icons. Those can be purchased as mementos.

Daffodil Computer Fair ends

The Daffodil Computers Limited arranged a weeklong Computer Fair from January 7 to 18 on the occasion of inauguration of its Mega Showroom in the port city, says a press release.

On the occasion, special price was offered for all kinds of accessories and peripherals.

The Mega Showroom was inaugurated on January 7 at 94, Sheikh Mujib Road, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong.

Former Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP was present in the inaugural function as chief guest while Chittagong Stock Exchange Chairman Habibullah Khan as special guest. Daffodil Computers Limited Managing Director Sabur Khan presided. IT personalities, elite, students, businessmen, and IT lovers were present.

Amir Khosru in his speech thanked the Daffodil for opening its Mega Showroom in Chittagong and expressed that this would help increase ICT knowledge among the youngsters and IT lovers here.

Sabur Khan said Daffodil has been working hard for 15 years to reduce the gap between technology and people by providing quality products, services, education, training and consultancy. Daffodil is committed to develop the country's ICT sector and this showroom will add new prospect in the IT market in Chittagong, he added.



Former Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury MP inaugurates the Daffodil Computers Limited Mega Showroom in the port city on January 7.

the week that was

CHT settlers demand rehabilitation

Samo-odhiker Andolan (movement for equal rights), an organisation of Bengali settlers of Guchchhagrams (cluster villages) in Chittagong Hill Tracts, staged a demonstration at Khagrachhari on Tuesday demanding their rehabilitation.

It also held a rally at the Mukhtamancha of Khagrachhari town. Later, Samo-odhiker Andolan leaders submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari in this regard. Md. Mushfiqur Rahman Maroof, central liaison committee member of the organisation, signed the memorandum on behalf of the settlers.

The leaders at the rally said that in 1988 the then government rehabilitated them in the cluster villages in the name of security. But the issue of permanent rehabilitation of settlers was not included in the CHT accord.

They said that without their permanent rehabilitation, permanent peace in CHT was not possible.

With Samo-odhiker central leader Md. Shahaj Uddin in the chair, Khagrachhari municipality chairman Md. Joinal Abedin, Md. Nazrul Islam, Md. Mostafizur Rahman Millat and municipality commissioner Md. Anwar Hossain also spoke at the rally.

Huge quantity of fuel wood seized

Fuel wood worth around Tk 6 lakh was seized and separate cases were filed against 15 brick kiln owners at the directive of State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafur Islam Chowdhury at Hathazari in the district on Wednesday.

Jafur Islam ordered the confiscation of the fuel wood and legal suit against the brick kiln owners for violating environment laws during a sudden visit to Fateyabad under Hathazari upazila.

He also visited different brick kilns in the area when he found many to use wood instead of coal and having chimney with less than required height.

Local Upazila Nirbahi Officer and

officials of local forest department and police administration accompanied the state minister.

Show on computerised brail production process

A show on the use of information technology in producing education materials for the disabled or computerised brail production process was held at the seminar hall of Shilpakala Academy here on Wednesday.

United Theatre for Social Action (UTSA) in collaboration with some other development and social organisations arranged the show to help make writing and reading materials including books printed in brail system for visually challenged persons easily available.

On this occasion, UTSA staged a drama titled "Negative Positive" depicting the existing position of physically challenged people at different levels of family, society and state.

Rotarian Dr. Mohammad Jahangir,



Tomoko Hossino gives away certificate to a participant of a show on computerized brail production process at Chittagong Shilpakala Academy on Wednesday.

former president of Rotary Club of Islamabad, Chittagong, was the chief guest at the ceremony.

Salim Nazrul of Centre for Disable Concern, Chittagong, Saroj Das of development group organisation of CUJ, Mahfuzul Haq Chowdhury of Green Bangladesh and Bhawar Bhattacharya of Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) were special guests at the ceremony chaired by UTSA executive committee member Malcolm Gomez.

CWE AGM held

The annual general meeting (AGM) of Chittagong Women Entrepreneurs (CWE) was held at the seminar hall of its Agrabad office here on Monday.

The participants reviewed the activities and success of the organisation at the AGM.

Earlier, a one-minute silence was observed in memory of Professor Dr. MA Aziz, a CWE advisor and a teacher of the department of environmental science at Singapore National University, who passed away on January 17.

CWE Senior Vice-President Khaleda Awal chaired the AGM, conducted by Rumi Mostafa.

Tk 1 lakh donated to CEITC

Saifuddin Ahmad Chowdhury donated a cheque for Tk 1 lakh to Chittagong Eye Infirmary and Training Complex (CEITC) to establish a bed for poor patient here on Wednesday.

Dr. Robiul Hussain, managing trustee of CEITC, received the cheque from Rotarian Mayeenuddin Ahmad Chowdhury Kamran, Saifuddin's nephew and president of Feni Rotary Club.

Mayeenuddin said that CEITC provided free treatment to the poor through medical camps at remote areas of greater Feni district as well as other parts of the country.

The money donated in the name of Saifuddin Bilkis Trust would be made doubled and deposited to CEITC fund.

IUB orientation programme held

Speakers at a discussion on Tuesday said that a system for quality education

is the main guiding force for a university and Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is committed to ensure it.

They said while addressing the Orientation Programme (Spring Semester) 2005 of IUB, Chittagong.

IUB, Chittagong Co-ordinator Professor Dr. Syed Salfarul Haq presided over the orientation programme on the university campus. Professor Dr. M Nuruzzaman and Associate Professor Dr. M Ayub Islam also spoke.

Nasiruddin new CSE vice-president

Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Kishwar Security Investment Limited, was elected Vice-President of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE).

He was elected to the post unanimously at the annual general meeting of CSE held here recently.

Nasiruddin is a business personality having diversified business of shipping, readymade garments, buying house, export-import, share capital and property development.



Janoudyog and Save Chattagram jointly formed a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club on January 19 protesting illegal hill cutting and demanding punishment to the culprits.

Protest against hill cutting

Janoudyog and Save Chattagram jointly formed a human chain on Chittagong Press Club premises on Thursday protesting rampant illegal hill cutting at the Uttar (north) Khulshi area in the city.

Later, the environmental organisations held a rally.

The speakers at the rally said that unscrupulous elements have been cutting hills in north Khulshi area in connivance with police and the authorities concerned.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the persons involved in the evil practice causing a serious environmental degradation in the hill-beset area. They also called for forging a mass movement against the hill cutting. Sharif Chouhan and Tusher Kanti Bashak spoke at the rally.



The environmental groups here jointly brought out a Sampan (local boat) procession in the Karnaphuli demanding measures to save the river from pollution and illegal encroachment. The procession brought out from Firingee Bazar Ghat ended at Karnaphuli Shah Amanat Bridge.