Police orchard boosts innate beauty of Rangamati

'Shukhi Nilganj' has now some 50,000 fruit, timber-yielding and medicinal trees of around 80 species

ABDULLAH -AL MAHMUD

'Shukhi Nilganj', an orchard, has enhanced the innate beauty of Rangamati in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Responding to the tree plantation campaign, the Rangamati Range of Police created the orchard with some 50,000 fruit, timber yielding and medicinal trees of around 80 species.

The orchard developed on 31.34 acres of land, occupied for some 17 years, also helped set up a new police line at Bhedbhedi in the hilly district.

The man who moved to turn the 'once illegally occupied land' into a Police Line-cum-orchard is Md Humayun Kabir, the then Superintendent of Police (SP) of Rangamati.

With a view to setting up a new Police Line for Rangamati land, including 3.76 acres on lease, was acquired at Bhedbhedi in 1984-1985, sources said.

The land remained abandoned for years, where 300 tribal and 42 settler families

erected illegal structures, accommodation capacity of 100 including a mosque, a Buddhist temple, a graveyard and a Shmashan (cremation ground).

The situation worsened when over 100 indigenous families started constructing illegal structure on the land, which encouraged some 12 settler families to erect more structures there.

The fear of additional nontribal familiescoming to the area angered the indigenous people and a tense situation was prevailing in the area, sources said.

At this stage, on November 10, 2001, Chingkue Roaza, the then chairman of Rangamati District Council, briefed Humayun Kabir about the situation, fearing a tribal-settler clash over the illegal occupation. Chingkue also requested the police super to take measures in this respect.

Later, police demolished 342 houses, including over 100 under-construction illegal structures, and recovered land worth Tk 13 crore to set up new police

Five barrack houses with an

policemen and other necessary installations were constructed. A huge parade ground was also prepared on the hilltop of the acquired land.

Then the police administration started the process for developing the huge orchard revolving round the new police

The police personnel collected seeds and saplings of different species of popular, common and extinct varieties. They worked hard voluntarily and grew around 50,000 trees of 80 species of wide varieties since 2002.

The local brigade of Army, the department of forest, the district council and the Bangladesh Tobacco Company also came forward with helping hands for the noble venture, sources said.

The orchard has been enriched with around 40,000 fruit trees of different varieties. The fruit trees grown so far included 25,000 jackfruit trees, 6,000 coconut trees, 4,000 olive trees, 1,300 mango trees, 1,000 Batabi Lebu (shaddock) trees,

700 guava trees, 550 Kaju Badam (kechue nut) and 350

Besides, there are plants of Golapjam, Bilambi, Bilti Gaab, Amrra, Dalim, Safeda, Custard apple, Wood apple, Kamranga, Balck-berry, date, lemon, Ratan, Deuoa, Kau, tamarind, Chalta, Sharifa, Babana, Apple, Orange, Jamrul, Palm, Papaya, Lalphal, Mon, nut, Amloki, Hartaki, Bahera, Arjun, Neem, Tejpata, Daruchini, Jafran, Golemarich, Alubokhara, Agar, civit, Sajina, Karamcha, Ulatkamol, Joitun, Mehedi, Mahogany, Tick, Chapalish, Gamari, Swarnachapa, Raintree, Bakul and Hijal.

The orchard has been divided into several areas under different names such as Philistanbag, Bakultala, Amrakanon, Saroder Pathey, Ali Hossain Bag and Shalimar Bag.

While talking to this correspondent at his present office at the CMP headquarters, Humayun Kabir said, "We gave it the name 'Shukhi Nilganj' to symbolise an ideal village as dreamt of by a poor and retired

Seminar on income

A seminar on "Salient Features and

Implication of Changes in the Income Tax Ordinance '84" was held in the port city on

The Institute of Chartered Accounts of Bangladesh, Chittagong (ICAB) organised the seminar at Agrabad Conference School.

dedication for the betterment of the country. President of Chittagong Stock Exchange

Habibullah Khan was the chief guest. Former

Deputy Prime Minister Jamal Uddin Ahmed and former ICAB chairman Sidhartha Barua

Mohammed Zainul Abedin presented the

St Scholastica

Debating Society

Installation ceremony of newly formed Saint Scholastica Debating Society was held at

Saint Scholastica School auditorium here on

The installation ceremony was followed by the final round of the Intra-Class Debating

Competition organised on this occasion by the Society in association with Panthajan, a

Daily Azadi, was the chief guest while

Journalist Reaz Haider attended as the

special guest. Sister Mary Palma presided

practice of logics now a days is confined

only to the functions. They called for much

practice and application of logic in everyday

life for further progress and advancement of

Bridget Dayes, senior teacher of the

The speakers at the ceremony said the

Prodip Dewanji, Divisional Editor of The

keynote paper.

formed

cultural organisation.

over the session.

The speakers at the seminar urged the chartered accountants to work hard with



'Shukhi Nilganj', an orchard, in Rangamati.

school teacher in a popular TV serial Eai Sob Din Ratri by eminent writer Humayun

The success in developing such a rich orchard also earned some recognition and fame for Humayun Kabir. It endowed him with the President Police Model Service while Shukhi Nilganj project received the second prize of the Prime Minister's National Award for tree planta-

He said he initiated the project aimed at creating a model for proper utilisation of fertile land in the hilly areas.

"With proper care and nursing the garden will earn at least Tk 1 crore annually within five to

six years," he said.

It will also encourage the tribal people for creating such gardens instead of joom farming and will reap a harvest for years,

CU Medical Centre limps

Students and other campus dwellers are forced to go to city clinics for treatment



Chittagong University Medical Centre.

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The Chittagong University (CU) Medical Centre is unable to provide health services to 25,000 students, teachers, employees and their families of the university as it is beset by manifold problems.

The Centre, established about four decades ago, was supposed to render all necessary healthcare services to them. But it has failed so far to live up to the expectation.

It runs with 11 doctors and 40 other staffs, including three officers but lacks any specialist. They often face trouble to cope with the number of both outdoor and indoor patients.

As a result, the students and other campus dwellers are compelled to consult the specialists in different city clinics or doctors' chambers, which the poor students can't afford.

The centre has only 10 beds for the patients.

The university authorities seemed to have no headache in

this regard, said students. The CU authorities allocate Tk 3 lakh to purchase medicines sources said. "The amount is too little and inadequate to buy medicines," they said.

"We do not get all necessary medicines from the centre, especially the costlier ones, for poor allocation by the authorities. As a result, we have no choice but to buy those expensive medicines from outside the centre," Mohammed Hasan, a student of Public Administration,

Acting Chief Medical Officer Dr Mohammed Tofazzal Hossain said the insufficient allocation has tied their hands to buy necessary medicines as well as render better healthcare services to the patients.

The centre can only test blood and urine here due to lack of pathological facilities. The lone X-ray machine remains inoperative since its procurement over a decade ago for lack of space and a technician, sources said.

Besides, doctors are very irregular to their duties and reportedly keen to practise outside the centre. "Most of them have shares of dispensaries or clinics in the port city or for the centre after four months, Hathazari upazila areas,

sources added.

The centre has four ambulances and seven drivers, which are being used by a section of influential teachers for their personal purposes such as shopping, sources said. The teachers bother little to the emergency needs of the centre, sources added.

The first floor of the twostoried medical centre has long been used as lecture rooms for the students of law and microbiology departments with the permission of the university authorities,

sources said.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Professor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury said the quarterly allocation for buying medicines is sufficient and has no plan to

On usage of centre ambulances for personal affairs, he said the teachers can use those with prior permission from the authorities.

He said the authorities have no immediate plan to shift the lecture rooms of the law and micro-biology departments from the medical centre.

theweekthatwas

Former chief advisor to a caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman addresses the 15th founding anniversary function of the monthly Fatikchhari as the chief guest at the Chittagong Club auditorium on Friday.

Mithun Mollik, Executive Director of 'Panthajan', Roktim Biswas, Debaraj Sen and Sazzad Shakil also addressed the session.

The 21-member executive committee of

the Debating Society was formed with Shahida Afreen and Ismata as president and general secretary, other office- bearers are Programme Secretary: Priya Das and Club Coordinators: Srabosti Das and Ananya

Japanese researcher meets **CCC** mayor

Prof Michihiko, a researcher of Osaka City University Research Centre for Human Rights, made a courtesy call on Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at his office here on

He congratulated Mohiuddin Chowdhury on his being elected mayor for the third Prof Michihiko lauded him for keeping the city clean and beautiful and thanked for calling the sweepers of the city as "Sebok" (service provider).

The name makes recognition to the service provided by the sweepers, he said.

Michihiko, who also carried out a research on the lifestyle of sweepers in Dhaka and Chittagong, urged the mayor for starting Japanese language course for the Seboks and provide the educated ones with better jobs.

Mohiuddin Chowdhury thanked Michihiko for the research work on sweepers and hoped that it would help develop a positive outlook for the "Seboks"

Discussion on women's empowerment

discussion titled "Empowerment and Rights of Women" was held on Wednesday ith a call for helping the womenfolk estab-

The speakers at the meeting organised by

Chittagong Ladies Club at the club auditorium said that women often became victim of discrimination and harassment in the male-dominant society.

lish rights and secure due position in the

Club President Zinat Alam chaired the meeting. Begum Runu Siddique, Khaleda Aual, Sabiha Musa, Farida Farhad, Parvin Chowdhury, Morsheda Nasir, Aleya Chowdhury and Sakina Begum Chowdhury

They said empowerment of women remained confined only to functions and seminars and vowed to bring in a positive change in the society for women.

Workshop on one-way edn

A daylong workshop was held at Theatre Institute Chittagong auditorium on Saturday to create mass awareness about the introduction of one-way education system.

The speakers at the workshop called for making school based assessment of students, privatisation of textbooks publication and reforms in the Secondary School Certificate Examination. Education Minister Dr M Osman Farook

was the chief guest at the workshop organised under Secondary Education Sector Improvement Project (SESIP)

The education minister in his speech said the age-old present education system prevents the students from acquiring com-

plete knowledge on any subject. "Government is actively thinking of introducing the one-way system for improv-

ing quality of secondary education further," Prof Dr Gazi Md Ahsanul Kabir, Chairman

of the National Curriculum and Text Books Board, presided. Chittagong Board Chairman AJM Sahidullah, SESIP director Basirul Hoque, Dhaka Board Curriculum specialist Faruk Ahmad and team leader of the project Berry Taylor also spoke



(Left) GPA-5 and scholarship achievers of different city schools receive certificates and awards from Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman while Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury looks on at a reception at the Laldighi Maidan on Friday. (Right) Students who achieved GPA-5 and scholarships are in a festive mood. The Chittagong City Corporation organised reception.



Visitors crowd around a stall at Handloom Textile Fair on the outer stadium premises. The month long fair organised by Bangladesh Tant Bastra Samity began here on Tuesday