

## Ctg Polytech bldgs may collapse any time

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Chittagong Polytechnic Institute authorities evacuated two workshops and five decade-old dilapidated buildings to avoid casualties fearing collapse at any moment.

The workshops were used for practical classes of civil engineering and power (auto-diesel) while the five buildings, including the principal's bungalow, housed 48 families.

The inmates of the buildings, including those of 12 instructors, were moved to eight other dormitories and rented houses outside the campus.

The practical classes of the civil and power workshop buildings are now being held at eight other workshop buildings, which are also in almost the same condition.

The Institute, set up on 35 acres of land in 1962, has 10 workshops, five student dormitories, one for females, and 12 three-storey buildings for its staffs.

A total of 1,700 students attend classes under the age-old buildings, risking their lives, said the students while talking to this correspondent.

The institute offers technical

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education under six trades -- Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, Power (Auto Diesel), Electronics and Computer -- in two shifts.

Md Anwar Hossain, acting principal of the institute, said "We have informed the authori-



ZOBRAE HOSSAIN/STOCKER

ties concerned about the situation without any result."

But, our concerns remain unheeded forcing the teachers, staffs and students to live in the quarters and buildings at great risk, he said.

"We fear a major casualty at

any moment when the technical education board authorities remained indifferent to the problems," he said. "The buildings badly need renovation or even the repair work," he added.

The other teachers and staffs of the institute also expressed

the same view.

They said the walls and roofs of the buildings have been soggy, leaking water inside for long.

"The buildings, where we have been shifted now, are also in same dilapidated condition and might collapse or cave in during earthquake of any magnitude."

They urged the authorities concerned for immediate measures for renovation of the buildings and construction of new staff quarters, dormitories and classes rooms.

Besides, the dilapidated buildings are also causing damage to the valuable machinery and equipment of the institute as the rainwater pours or seeps through the roofs and walls, they said.

In addition, members of the 32 Ansar Battalion have been using one of the students dormitories for years, worsening the housing problem of the students and staffs, they said. The Ansar forces were not posted to look after the security of the institute, they added.

## Port city struggles with waterlogging, poor drainage

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The waterlogging following the six-hour incessant downpour on Saturday once again reminded the city dwellers of the miserable state of the drainage system in the port city.

The torrential rain inundated most of the city areas, leaving thousands of residents marooned till late afternoon since the early morning on the day.

The rainwater flooded hundreds of shops and business establishments, causing huge damage to properties.

The businessmen, particularly those of the traditional business centres of Chaktai and Khatunganj, suffered the most financial losses as the Chaktai Canal the backbone of drainage system of the city - overflowed, submerging their godowns of wholesale grocery items.

They attributed the non-completion of renovation works of Chaktai Canal and poor maintenance of the existing drains of the city for their losses.

The city dwellers said the

illegal construction of structures on the drains at Prabartak Intersection and Jamalkhan areas and concrete structures on open spaces blocking the passage of water, contributed to the waterlogging.

They urged for coordinated efforts by the authorities concerned like Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), Chittagong Development Authority, Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong Port Authority and Chittagong Wasa to keep the passage of water free and improve the drainage system.

The CCC, responsible for taking care of the drainage system, was apparently not much concerned in this regard while listing the development works in its annual budget.

CCC in its budget of the current fiscal year (2005-2006) took up no new project for developing the drainage system and opted to continue implementing the projects of last fiscal year (2004-2005).

The CCC under the last fiscal year's projects continued construction of 5.29 km drains involving Tk 1.39 crore,

4.97 km retaining walls of Tk 4 crore 39.61 lakh, and digging and removal of earth along 16.65 km at a cost of Tk 93 lakh, sources at CCC said.

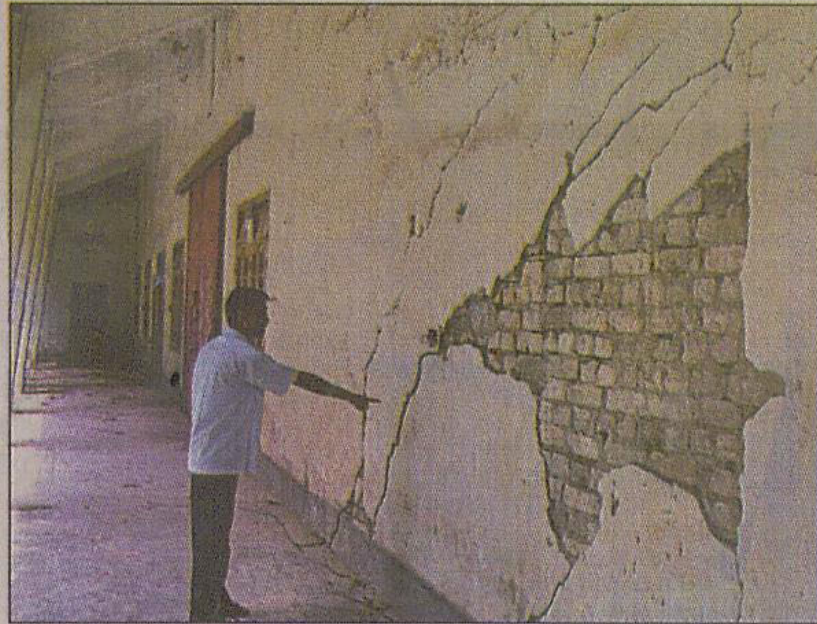
The CCC is constructing a 2.16 km retaining wall along the Chaktai canal under a Tk 6.50 crore project and implementing the Tk 2.10 crore project for brick soling of the canal bed, sources said.

Both the projects for Chaktai Canal were taken up last year.

Of them, the soling of the canal bed is yet to see much progress while the construction of the retaining walls is almost completed, the CCC officials said.

Meanwhile, the CCC officials said to free the city from waterlogging, CCC alone can not do much unless all the city dwellers are aware of the problem.

They said in many points of the city garbage and rubbish are thrown and dumped in the drains blocking the passage of water. Besides, loosened earth following illegal hill cutting contributes to the silt in the drains, resulting in collapse of drainage system even after a little downpour, they said.



Chittagong Polytechnic Institute, top, a wretched wall with cracks, bottom left, and an abandoned workshop, right.



People wade knee-deep through stagnant water at the Chittagong Medical College area after the downpour inundated half of the city on Saturday.

## the week that was

### Journalists urged to unite

Speakers at a seminar here called for greater unity among the journalists on the basis of professionalism to get rid of the crisis and hazards they are facing now.

"Journalism in Bangladesh has become a risky profession and journalists are now passing virtually a crucial time," they said.

They were speaking at a seminar

itled "The crisis of journalism in Bangladesh and its remedy" at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) auditorium on Saturday.

Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) organised the seminar with its President Mostak Ahmad in the chair.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury were present as chief and special guests. BFUJ Secretary General Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul was the main speaker and its

member Samir Barua presented the keynote paper.

### Workshop on leprosy

A workshop was held at Chittagong Export Processing Zone on Sunday with a call for uprooting the unnecessary scare and wrong conception about leprosy.

Denim Plus (Bangladesh) Limited and Rotary Club of Chittagong Port

City jointly organised the workshop in association with Chittagong Leprosy Control Project at Denim Plus factory.

The workshop was aimed at ensuring proper cares and treatment to the leprosy patients.

Leprosy Control Project officials and experts projected video slides on the symptoms and remedies for the leprosy at the workshop creating, mass awareness about this non-transmittable disease.

Project officials Sultan Md Ilias and Misses Sylvia discussed different aspects of leprosy and gave neces-

sary consultations. Around 1500 staffs and employees of Denim participated in the workshop.

Rotary Club President Shakil Monzor was the chief guest at the closing ceremony with Denim Plus General Manager Ye Quan in the chair.

### Dental check-up programme

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd organised 'Pepsodent Dental Check-Up Programme' for its staffs, employees and their family members on the factory premises at Kalurghat on Sunday. General Factory Manager Hasan Jafar Chowdhury inaugurated the programme.

"Unilever has been organising different awareness raising programmes in the fields like health and education and will continue to do so in future," said Hasan Jafar.

General Manager (Technical Services) Rajib Barua, Chief Medical Officer Dr Syed Diderul Haque and Employees Union President AM Shahidul Alam also addressed the function.

### Cartoon exhibition

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Chittagong University (CU) unit, arranged a cartoon exhibition at Zarulatala on the campus on Thursday.

They displayed comic cartoons reflecting a wide spectrum of socio-economic aspects ranging from

country's oil and gas sectors to the internal problems of the university.

Federation convener Helal Uddin gave a brief speech and thanked the visitors for coming to the exhibition.

The show drew a large number of visitors.

### Keep Sonali Bank open on Saturdays

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President

He also requested the BB governor to extend the present timing of banking activities.

"The exporters and importers are facing difficulties in conducting financial transactions due to the closure of the treasury banking operations of Sonali Bank branches inside different customs houses on Saturdays," Saifuzzaman said in his message.

He asked the BB Governor to take immediate measures in this regard for the sake of country's economy.

immediate hand-over of 15 percent shares, to which they claim their legal right as per a company rule.

They also protested a recent announcement of the finance minister for selling of 51 percent of shares to the general public.

Leaders of Eastern Cables Sramik Union made the demand at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club.

Md Abul Mokarram read out the written statement. Union President Sultan Gias Uddin, Senior Vice President Md Idris, Md Lokman, Noab Mia, Mostak Ahmad Zahid Hossain and Kamal Karim Das were present.

### Inter-school quiz ends

The six-day OFA-Dainik Purbokone Inter-School Quiz Competition -2005 ended here on Friday.

Chittagong Government Girls High School clinched the title while Cantonment Public School and College was the runners-up.

The Daily Purbokone Editor Taslimuddin Chowdhury, also the OFA (Old Faujians Association), gave away the prizes among the winners as chief guest. The final round of debate was held at the auditorium of Lion's Hospital at Zakir Hossain Road.

Former OFA presidents Mohammad Ali, Captain Shafiq Bhuiyan and Commodore Nizam and OFA General Secretary Dr. Mezbah Uddin also addressed the function.



Visitors at the three-day photo exhibition at Chittagong Press Club auditorium on Saturday. Chittagong Photojournalists' Association organised the event.

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