

# Chandgaon fast becoming commercial area

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Chandgaon Residential Area is fast becoming a commercial zone as a section owners rent out their residential buildings and flats to traders for use for commercial purposes.

Such undesirable phenomenon now poses a threat to the tranquility of life of thousands of residents of Chandgaon - one of the posh residential areas in the port city.

Developed by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) in 1978, Chandgaon R/A has 663 multi-storied residential buildings on 741 plots in two blocks, sources said.

The peaceful residential

including schools and colleges, health care centres, government and Non-Government Organisations' offices, boutiques, tailoring shops, beauty parlours and drug addicted medication and rehabilitation centres, have been set up in the residential flats and buildings of the area during the last one decade.

Of the educational institutions, Chittagong International School, Chittagong Blooming Buds School, Darul Irfan Academy, City Model School and College, Royal Pre-Cadet School and College, Begum Rokeya School and College, Little Star School, Ananda Multimedia School, Madinatul Ulum AL Islamia, Nurani Alimul

The government establishments include Karmajibi Mahila Hostel and Rabindra Sanad Cultural Academy.

Non-government organisations are Integrated Development Foundation (IDF), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA) and Organisation for Women Development in Chittagong (OWDEV).

Addicts' medication and rehabilitation centres, including Tori, Protisruti and Prashanti have also been set up in the residential area having grocery and other shops at almost each and every corner.

The residents said apart from noise of the commercial firms, addicts at the rehabilitation centres and staffs and employees of

and night, we experience an atmosphere of a busy commercial area here, they said.

"A section of owners rent out buildings or flats for commercial use for money ignoring the rules," said Moimuddin Khokan - a resident of A Block.

Besides, the commercial establishments here are paying bills as per residential rates depriving the government of a huge revenue, he added.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) Authorisation Officer Fazlul Karim said setting up of commercial enterprises in the plots of Chandgaon is illegal. He said they have already launched a drive against the practice.

He said they took action



Water level at Kaptai Lake is falling at an alarming rate, causing sufferings to the people living nearby, as well as hampering power generation at the country's lone hydro-electric plant.



Chittagong Education Board building and Karmajibi Mahila Hostel at Chandgaon Residential Area.

character of the area is being spoiled day by day as a section of owners encourage mushroom growth of commercial establishments in violation of law for higher rent, the residents said.

Numerous enterprises,

Quran Madrasa, International School and College, City Laboratory School and College, Glorious Coaching Centre, Star Fair Teaching Home are prominent ones. Chittagong Education Board is also located here.

different offices sometimes make the life unbearable. They are making noise and singing or playing songs in a loud volume throughout the whole day, even in the midnight.

With movement of vehicles and crowd of people all the day

against a medicine factory recently for running business at the A-block of the residential area.

"We have also directed estate department to take proper action against owners of the plots and buildings for renting them out for commercial use," Karim added.

# Damaged oil tanker under repair

ABDULLAH - AL MAHMUD

MT Banglar Shourabh, an oil tanker damaged in a massive explosion in June last year, will start its voyage once again after repair at home by a local firm.

Karnaphuli Ship Builders Limited (KSBL), a local ship building firm, has been awarded the venture to repair the ship and the firm made berthing of the damaged oil tanker at CDDL jetty on January 8.

The repair works of the ship by a local firm will substantially bring down the cost, sources at state-

run Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) said. Besides, its re-sailing will save a huge amount of financial loss BSC counting due to shortage of lightering oil tanker, the sources added.

MT Banglar Shourabh caught a fire that led to a massive explosion blowing off tank No. 4, including deck and side plates weighing around 500 tons, at the Charley (C) point of the outer anchorage of Chittagong port on June 24 last year.

The accident also left three people dead, forcing the authorities concerned even to think of

selling the oil tanker away as "scrap" although procurement of such an oil tanker costs around Tk 150 crore.

The damaged oil tanker was towed from the sea near Gohira coast under Anwara upazila, some 13km off Chittagong port, on January 4, they said.

"We have already started making smaller plates each weighing around 30 tons at our own dockyard (Karnaphuli Dockyard Pvt Ltd) for replacing the blown off plates of the oil tanker," said KSBL Managing Director Engineer MA Rashid.

"We will get docking the oil tanker at CDDL jetty after the plates are ready to complete the repair work within two to three weeks," he told The Daily Star on Monday.

KSBL submitted a tender on July 31 last year quoting a price of Tk 23.25 crore for repair of the damaged parts of the tanker in the first phase and Tk 1.27 crore for installation of the engine and other instruments.

Two other bidders - Western Mariners and Colombo Dry Dock, also participated in the bid for the first phase for Tk 23.25 crore.

The firm signed an agreement in this regard on "No cure no pay" basis after making a payment of Tk 5.50 crore as "Performance Guarantee (PG) money on August 9 last year, said the sources.

Rashid said the work will be completed within the stipulated time of nine months. He said when completed the oil tanker will be able to provide service for 20 years more.

Singapore-based consultancy firm GB Marine Pvt. Ltd. will provide technical support while Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and CDDL are extending all out supports for the work, he said.

CDDL Managing Director Enamul Baqui told a group of journalists that they would assist the repair work with their manpower, technical support and expertise.

BSC Director (Commercial) Shahidul Alam said repair of a seriously damaged oil tanker by a local firm is beyond our expectation.

He, however, said BSC itself will install the engine and do other navigational work of the Banglar Shourabh in the second phase.



MT Banglar Shourabh, a seriously damaged oil tanker with one of its huge tank blown off, berths at Chittagong Dry Dock Limited jetty.

## theweekthatwas

### Free textbooks for pry schools

Distribution of textbooks free of cost began in the government primary schools in the port city.

Deputy Director (Education) Md Iqbal Hossain inaugurated the programme as chief guest at a ceremony at Municipal Model Govt Primary School on Wednesday with District Education Officer (Primary) Md Nurul Amin Chowdhury in the chair.

Assistant Director Mafiz Ahmad and Assistant District Education Officer (Primary) Nurul Amin also spoke.

Around 30,000 books will be distributed in the government primary schools in the district this year, sources said.

### BBF training for jurnos

Speakers at a training course said journalists are to reveal the truth and fact without any passion and assumption.

They said there is no scope of passion or emotion in journalism.

They were speaking at the closing ceremony of a training course for the journalists organised by Bright Bangladesh Forum (BBF), a non-government organisation, on Wednesday at the regional training centre of NGO Forum.

BBF organised the training for the journalists working in Chittagong and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

News Editor of the Daily Purbakone Abu Taher Muhammad was the chief guest at the ceremony with BBF Chief Executive Utpal Barua in the chair.

Bureau Chief of Daily Bhorer Kagoj Omar Kaiser, Chittagong University Journalism Department lecturer Sahabuddin Nipu, Gayatri Mazumder of Amar Desh and Sitakunda correspondent of Daily Purbakone Mejbauddin Mithu also spoke.

Around 120 journalists participated the training course.

### New Look opens

New Look Classic Care, an institution on beauty care, started its journey formally in the port city with a view to serving the beauty-conscious women with modern and scientific services.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of New Look Nigara Sultana Mukta inaugurated the institution at a simple ceremony on Friday.

Nigar in her speech said they will emphasise the quality to cater the need of the women.

"We will use products of renowned brands like L'oreal of France, Swarczepoc of Germany, Lakme of India and Make up Technique Institute (MTI) of Thailand for treatments like hairdressing, makeup, manicuring and skin care" she said.



Vice Chancellor of Chittagong Premier University Dr Anupam Sen and Artist Qayyum Chowdhury along with other guests visit the works of Henry Moore at an exhibition jointly organised by British Council and Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at

### Bus owners threaten strike

City Bus Minibus Human Hauler Association leaders threatened to begin strike for indefinite period if the 'harassment on the bus owners and drivers by the traffic police' is not stopped immediately.

They gave the ultimatum at a meeting at their office on Friday with association President Mohammad Zakaria in the chair.

The leaders said a section of sergeants and constables of the traffic department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) harass the owners and drivers of bus, minibus and human haulers in the city.

The traffic police also file cases for minor faults and try to extort money as fine from the drivers.

Association Vice Chairman Lokman Hakim Mohammad Ibrahim and Joint Secretary Nurul Huda spoke at the meeting.

### Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day observed

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders said the country became independent in true sense on January 10 of 1972 when the founder of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned to his homeland from a jail in Pakistan on this historic day.

They were addressing a rally organised by BCL Omar Gani MES College unit marking the historic Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day with unit President Abul Hossain Abu in the chair.

MES College student union Vice President (VP) Md Wasim Uddin, General Secretary Arshedul Alam Bachchu, BCL college unit GS Sanjoy Bhoomik Kankon, Vice President Khorshed Ahmad Jewel, Joint Secretary Qamrul Hasan and Office Secretary Habibur Rahman Tarek

spoke at the rally.

Earlier the BCL leaders and activists placed wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu.

### CCC plan to strengthen EPI

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on Thursday arranged a coordination meeting to strengthen the Expanded programme on immunisation (EPI) in the city corporation area.

CCC Chief Health Officer Dr Selim Akhter presided over the meeting. Health Officer Dr Mohammad Ali, Medical Officer In-Charge Dr Nasim Bhuiyan, Zonal Medical Officers Dr Ashish Kumar Mukherjee, Dr Mohammad Hossain, Resident Physician Asif Khan and Surveillance Medical Officer of World Bank Dr Zahid Hasan spoke at the meeting.

Dr Selim sought cooperation of all in achieving the target of providing vaccination to around one lakh babies in the city.



Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Nigar Sultana Mukta inaugurates New Look Classic Care, an institute for beauty care, at Chatteshwari Road in the port city on Friday.