

Pahela Baishakh celebrated amid festivity

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The port city has its own style of celebrating different traditional festivals specially the Pahela Baishakh, the first day of Bangla year.

The celebration, however, in the last few years was far below its enthusiasm and distinct character due to uncanny feelings, panicky situation and sense of insecurity among the citizens against the backdrop of Ramna Batamul incident and the subsequent ultra militant-led series of bomb attacks across the country.

Once that phase is 'almost' over and sense of security well assured, this time, the Pahela Baishakh celebration has swung back to life again in Chittagong with much more colour, festivity, enthusiasm, vivacity and spontaneity. People from all ages and strata of life welcomed the first day of Bangla year 1414 on Saturday. Attired in colourful dresses the people, including women and children, thronged the DC Hill premises, the focal point of all festivities, and at different city points.

Unlike Dhaka, where colourful masks and portraits of elephant,

tiger or other giant animals made by fine arts students predominantly marked the celebrations, the port city concentrated on cultural programmes, dance performance and Baishakhi Mela depicting the glories of Bangla culture, tradition and heritage.

Sammilita Barsha Biday O Baran Parishad organised the main programmes on DC Hill premises, the main venue of all Pahela Baishakh celebrations in Chittagong, to welcome the new year where many cultural organisations took part. The dawn of 1414 began with folk songs by noted singers Abdur Rahman Boyati and Farida Parvin.

The beautiful DC Hill premises was in festive look throughout the day and it became more vibrant for its Bishakhi fair.

"This is a great privilege for me to attend the Pahela Baishakh celebration outside Dhaka and I'm quite impressed the way it is being celebrated here," said singer Farida Parvin on Saturday morning.

The district administration this year also came up with much enthusiasm and organised a day-long programme on the Shilpakala Academy premises.

Concord Amusement Park

authorities organised colourful programmes at Foy's Lake and Zia Smriti Complex premises. Thousands of children enjoyed the programmes in these amusement centres where the authorities offered them different rides with special discount.

Fulki, a non-traditional educational institution, came up with a surprise pack of attractive arrangements that included Baishakhi fair, pantomime show, science fair, book fair, painting exhibition and cultural programmes.

"We always strive to do something different while celebrating Pahela Baishakh and children usually are our main point of attention because we believe that the more they know Bangla culture and tradition the better it would be for the nation," said Shila Momen, principal of the institution.

Chittagong Press Club also organised a day-long programme titled "Press Club-e Katuk Baishakher Natun Din." The programme included art and pitha competition attended by the children and wives of club members.



Pahela Baishakh: Artistes of Nataraj Nrityangan perform dance, *left*, artistes of Chattagram Squad performs dhol at DC Hill, *right top*, and artistes of Bangladesh Nritya Shilpi Sangstha Chittagong perform dance at Shilpakala Academy, *bottom*.



STAR PHOTO

CTG GETS BACK SCENIC BEAUTY



Tiger Pass intersection before drive against billboards, *left*, and after drive, *right*. The scenic beauty of hills at Tiger Pass intersection area, 'specially free zone' declared by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), remained covered for long by a number of huge billboards of local and multinational companies. The hills have come to sight again since April 16 when the members of joint forces demolished all sorts of signboards and billboards. Some advertisement firms had covered the green hills alongside the Tiger Pass area and Lalkhan Bazar Road with the help of a



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

31 YEARS AFTER BUDGET ALLOCATION

CU sports complex is yet to see light

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Chittagong University (CU) authorities are yet to set up the proposed sports complex after 31 years of budget allocation, causing problems to the students under Physical Education Department.

The department is unable to arrange facilities for practice of indoor games for lack of a gymnasium.

Having glory of winning several competitions, the players of the university are to face serious problem in practising indoor games due to absence of a gymnasium mainly in the rainy season.

The participants on many occasions fail to win events as they are to participate in competitions with other universities without proper practice, said the players.

There are more than 500 students having knack for indoor and outdoor games like football, hockey, cricket, handball, volleyball, athletics, badminton and table tennis at the university.

The participants now practise either at the CU central ground or at the Physical Education Department room, sources said.

The university authorities are indifferent to the problems as they have failed to set up proposed sports complex after 31 years of sanctioning budget for it.

The government approved a project worth Tk 1.25 crore to set up a sports complex in the university in 1976 along with two other projects for Dhaka and Rajshahi universities.

Rajshahi University authorities

ties set up a full-fledged stadium and Dhaka University a sports complex, including a swimming pool under the projects while the CU authorities did nothing.

It is learnt that the then vice-chancellor and the engineers of the university responsible for implementing the project were punished at a court marshal during the autocratic regime of HM Ershad for corruption relating to the project.

Besides, the University Grant Commission (UGC) allocated Tk 4.98 crore in 1995 to set up a

allocated Tk 8 lakh for the department for 2006-2007, which is too meagre to run the department.

Participation in the events at another university is very expensive while a good amount of money is to spend for holding annual sports of the university, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Physical Education Department, the lone place for practice of indoor games, also doesn't have any building of its own for practice.

The building of the department is actually meant to house

The government approved a project worth Tk 1.25 crore to set up a sports complex in the university in 1976 along with two other projects for Dhaka and Rajshahi universities. Rajshahi University authorities set up a full-fledged stadium and Dhaka University a sports complex, including a swimming pool under the projects while the CU authorities did nothing

full-fledged sports complex at the university.

But the authorities did not start the construction, saying the allocation was not sufficient to set up a sports complex, sources said.

On the other hand, participation of the university teams in the next inter-university handball at Gazipur, swimming in Dhaka and football in Rajshahi has become uncertain due to fund constraint as the allocation has already been exhausted.

The university authorities

only the printing press of the university.

AMM Raquib Quoraishi, director of the department, said, "It needs Tk 14 to 15 lakh to participate in all events where we get only Tk 8 lakh."

A gymnasium is necessary to improve quality of the players and arrange indoor games, he said.

"We have sent a reviewed proposal to the ministry concerned last month that will be implemented in three phases at a cost of Tk 8 crore", he added.



STAR PHOTO

Players of Chittagong University carry out their practices of indoor games here for lack of a gymnasium in the university.

theweekthatwas

National Calamity Preparation Day observed

Speakers at a discussion on Thursday urged the youth community, including students, to come forward to learn few basics of preparedness to face the natural calamities.

They made the call at the discussion marking the National Calamity Preparation Day-2007 on Nazrul Square premises.

This year's theme for the day was 'Ensuring Fire Security in Residences and Offices'.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Md Mofazzal Hossain was the chief guest at the ceremony jointly organised by Chittagong District Administration and World Vision Bangladesh, Chittagong chapter.

Manager of World Vision Bangladesh, Chittagong chapter Pradip D Costa, District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer Md Ruhul Amin, Deputy Director of Red Crescent Abdul Odud Mia spoke at the discussion.

Later a procession was brought out from Nazrul Square that paraded different city streets and ended on Chittagong Press Club premises.

'Introduce children with country's culture'

Speakers said cultural activities play

important role in developing the merit, thought and outlook of a child.

They were addressing the annual cultural competition of Meron Sun School and College at the college auditorium on Wednesday.

Director of Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) Brigadier General Dr Abedur Rahman was the chief guest at the ceremony with college principal Md Sanaullah in the chair. Treasurer of Chittagong Maa O Shishu General Hospital Syed Morshed Hossain, Hospital Director Md Ismail and senior teacher of Chittagong Collegiate School Shahanaj Parvin were present as special guests.

Speakers urged the teachers and guardians to introduce the students with the culture of the country.

Call to practise own culture

Speakers urged the young artistes to carry on their practice of own culture in order to protect it amidst the aggression of satellite culture.

They spoke at a discussion on the eve of 5th founding anniversary of Aditi Sangit Niketan, an institution for music, at Kattali City Corporation Girls School on Wednesday.

Poet and journalist Arun Das Gupta was the chief guest at the meeting with Chanda Das in the chair.

Popular artiste Abdul Mannan Rana was the main speaker at the ceremony where local ward commissioner Arju Sahabuddin, Saifuddin Ahmed, Kankesh Bhattachariya, Nandan Roy, and Anwarul Islam also spoke.

Later, a cultural programme was held participated by students of the institu-

tion.

Reception to 3 female litterateurs

Speakers said proper recognition inspires the devoted persons to carry on their creative activities that help the social development.

They said this at a reception ceremony to three female litterateurs of Chittagong -- Fahmida Amin, Fazilatul Kadar and Runu Siddiquee -- by Chattagram Academy.

Academy Chairman Dr Anupam Sen presided over the ceremony where poet Marzina Akhter and Ayesha Hoque presented the life sketches of the recipients.

Speakers said the society will be benefited if the contributions of the people who are committed to the social development are acknowledged.

Prof Chowdhury Jahurul Hoque, Prof Rita Datta, Principal Nilufar Jahur, Principal Anwara Alam, Prof Ferdous Ara Alim, Nuri Ara Saba, Sakawat Hossain Majnu, cultural officer of District Shilpakala Academy Manashi Das Talukder, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ward commissioners Rehana Begum Ranu and Rekha Alam Chowdhury spoke.

Academy Director General Rashed Rouf moderated the function.

Automobile show room launched

Acting Mayor of Chittagong City

Corporation (CCC) Manjur Alam inaugurated a car show room NAC Auto Mobile at Agrabad Sheikh Mujib Road on Thursday.

The CCC acting mayor hoped that customers would get latest facilities in buying cars and proper services in the show room.

He urged the owner to be aware about quality and services while doing business.

President of Chittagong Maa O Shishu Hospital Prof Dr Fazlul Karim, Vice-President Foujul Ali Khan, Bank Asia Vice-President (Agrabad Branch) Tariqul Islam, Senior General Manager of Rupali Insurance Limited Abul Kalam Azad, General Manager of Sadharan Bima Corporation Azad Dobhash and NAC Auto Mobile Chairman Shakil Mahmud were present at the function.

Later, acting city mayor handed over a key of a car to a new buyer.

Seminar on chicken pox

Speakers at a seminar said homeopathy is more effective in the treatment of chicken pox.

The seminar on 'Homeopathy in the treatment of Chicken Pox' was organised at Homeopathy Research Centre at Chandgaon on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Homeopathic Medical Association (BHMA), Chandgaon unit organised the seminar with its president Dr Sagar Chandra Dev in the chair.

BHMA General Secretary Dr SK Dev Sajal presented keynote paper. Speakers said chicken pox is a dangerous infectious disease that spreads in epidemic form during the seasons of winter and spring.

BHMA Senior Vice-President Dr Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan, Vice-President Dr Aminul Hoque, Joint Secretary Dr Syama Prasad Das Gupta, Family Planning Secretary Dr Pushpita Rani Dey, Dr Ratan Chakrabarty, Dr Haradan Dey and Dr Kajal Das participated in the discussion.

CSE seminar on capital market held

Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) President MKM Mohiuddin emphasised the need for introducing book-building system to draw more business enterprises and help establish a vibrant capital market with listing of quality scripts in the country.

He was addressing a seminar on 'Capital Market and Book-Building Method' organised by Chittagong Stock Exchange at its conference room on Sunday.

The CSE President said they already prepared a draft guideline for book-building process in order to launch the scientific process of price discovery used in public offers in the stock market.

In this respect a team comprising representatives from CSE, DSE and SEC visited Bombay Stock Exchange and National Stock Exchange of India recently to study the book-building system in India earlier, he said.

Silmat Chisti, Resident Vice-President of City Bank NA presented the key-note paper at the seminar where Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of City Bank NA and First Vice President of CSE Nasiruddin Ahmed Chowdhury spoke.