

Chaktai Khal a never-ending problem

CU central library needs care



Dumping of garbages continues to pollute the Chaktai Khal (canal).

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The Chaktai Khal is a never-ending problem for 40 lakh people of the port city despite completion of concrete soling of the canal bed and some insignificant renovations.

The five lakh people who reside along the canal are the worst sufferers.

The six-kilometre Khal (canal) along with 11 other canals, including Jamal Khan Khal, Mirza Khal, Hizra Khal and Chatteswary Khal, drain out the rain water as well as sewer water from 20 square kilometre areas of the port city to the river Karnaphuli and the Bay of Bengal. The canal is considered as the backbone of the city's drainage system.

The Tk 25.50 crore project soling work of canal bed was completed in 2006 without any respite from waterlogging due to incomplete digging on its mouth. Poor maintenance and freestyle dumping of household and other wastes are other reasons that aggravate the situation during the rainy season. As a result the canal becomes silted to overflow and flood the neighbouring areas, including the traditional business hubs of Chaktai, Khantunganj and Asadganj.

At the same time waterlogging and inundation cause untold sufferings and huge loss of prop-

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erties to the city dwellers even after a little downpour with the onset of the rainy season.

People living along the canal at Bakalia, Chawk Bazar, Bohaddarhat, Chaktai, Badurtala, Kapasgola, Dewan Bazar, Chandgaon, Panchlaish, Katalganj, DC Road, Ghat Farhadbeg, Muradpur, Sholoshahar, Hajipara,

Madarbari, Pahtarghata, Halishahar, Saraipara, Eidgaon, Gosaidanga, Bandartila and Hamidchar areas suffer most due to the water logging.

About 135 areas of 41 wards in the port city go down under knee-deep or waist-deep water with a shower of only 50 millimetre, sources said. They said unplanned construction of structures encroaching on canals, insensible urbanisation and navigability of the city canals are worsening the inundation problem.

As per RS Survey, the original width of Chaktai canal was 200 feet while it was 160 feet according to BS Survey, which has come down to just 40 feet in recent years, sources said.

They said the depth of this all-important canal was 20 feet even 25 years ago while it is now only 10 feet, and several points less than that.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) has taken an initiative to evict the encroachers from both the sides of the canal to regain at least 100 feet width to make it viable from economic and environmental points of view. The CCC asked the business leaders and people's representatives of Chaktai and adjoining areas to remove their illegal structures to help save the canal.

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The facilities at Chittagong University (CU) Central Library are decreasing day by day as the library is in the grip of mismanagement.

The library with a rich collection of different books, journals and other reading materials is unable to provide proper opportunities to the students for lack of cooperation of its staffs and officials.

The three-storied library in front of the Arts Faculty building has three large reading rooms for teachers and students of different faculties and institutes.

The students said the concerned staffs and officials close the reading rooms at 6:00pm instead of scheduled 8:00pm. On some occasions they close it at around 7:00pm.

The library is supposed to remain open from 8:00am to 8:00pm in the working days.

The science faculty students suffer most due to early closure of the reading rooms as they are to go to the library after their practical classes that end at 4:30pm.

"We have to continue practical classes until 4.30pm and then we go to the library. We don't get enough time to study as it closes at 7.00pm, hampering our daily studies a lot," said Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, a student of the Science Faculty.

Besides, of three IPS in the reading rooms for uninterrupted power supply, two of Social Science and Commerce Faculty

and Arts faculty went out of order around one year ago. When power supply goes off, activities of the reading rooms stop automatically encouraging the library staffs to close it earlier, said the students.

Sufferings of the students intensify further as the photocopyers of the library remain out of order round the year. Of the four photocopyers, three have been remaining dysfunctional for more than six months.

Whereas, the students are not allowed to take the books outside the library and to depend on the photocopyers to photocopy of a book.

"The problem causes suffering to us since we cannot copy our necessary papers from the books as a large number of students wait in queue for copy from the lone copier," said Rashedul Hasan, a student of the Arts Faculty.

On the other hand, summer heat disrupts study of the students for lack of sufficient ceiling fans in the non-air conditioned reading rooms.

There are six fans for eight tables in the reading room for Science Faculty, three fans for 12 tables for Commerce and Social Science faculty, two fans for eight tables in reference section, four fans for 14 tables for Arts Faculty and only one fan for six tables for the magazine section.

Meanwhile, the authorities last year modernised the central library bringing it under computerised automation system.

The authorities installed a



Chittagong University Library.

server and 12 computers to rid the students, teachers and researchers of the hassle of finding out desired books searching through manual catalogue.

They also installed a software donated by a teacher of Computer Science department which is not working properly, sources in the library said.

Many books, including rare ones, are being damaged in the library due to use of aerosol spray

to preserve the books instead of fumigation.

The library started its journey with only 14,000 books in 1968, which has now 2,05,000 books, 35,100 journals (binding), 2,900 rare books, 700 thesis papers, 1,750 research papers (photocopy) and 750 compact disks (CD) on different topics.

A total of 80 employees work in two shifts in the library.

Acting Librarian Abu Taher

denied the allegations against the staffs and officials. "Process for procuring two generators for uninterrupted power supply has almost been finished and it would be installed as early as possible," Tahersaid.

He said the engineers have already examined the photocopyers and some parts will be replaced to make all those functional.

## theweekthatwas

### Call to include women entrepreneurs in govt team

Speakers at a workshop underscored the need for including the representatives of women entrepreneurs in the government delegations to different countries in order to develop the leadership.

They were addressing at a workshop on 'Problems and Prospects of Women Entrepreneurs' organised by Chittagong Women Chamber at Chittagong Circuit House on Thursday.

Divisional Commissioner Mokhesur Rahman was the chief guest at the workshop with Women Chamber President Monwara Hakim Ali in the chair.

Mokhesur in his speech assured the women entrepreneurs of allotting land in the port city to set up a sale centre, an office and a training institute for women chamber.

He also announced to allocate 10 computers for the chamber.

He urged the chamber leaders to set up a central information centre to facilitate the local women entrepreneurs at the district and upazila levels with information regarding business.

Around 150 women entrepreneurs from different areas of Chittagong region participated in the workshop.

Senior Vice President of the chamber Khaleda A Awal was present at the workshop.



Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Ali Abbas speaks at a reception accorded to national cricketer Tamim Iqbal, second from left, organised by Sunshine Grammar School and College at a local hotel on Tuesday.

acting mayor Manjur Alam at his office submitted the memorandum on Wednesday.

In the memorandum they demanded CCC to clean the drains alongside Agrabad Access Road and demolish the illegal structures on the drains in order to rid the areas of serious water logging.

The residents of Basundhara, Sonali, Karnaphuli, Anandipur, GHK and L blocks suffer from serious water logging during rainy season due to the overflowing drains, they said.

Other demands include construction of dilapidated roads stretching from Chhotapol to Anandipur, Link Road between K Block and Port Connecting Road, setting up and repair of electric poles at different blocks.

Manjur assured the association leaders of taking effective measures in this regard before the rainy season.

### Memo to CCC acting mayor

Halishahar K&L Block Social Welfare Association leaders submitted a memorandum to the acting mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) demanding immediate steps to solve local problems.

The leaders at a meeting with the

### BGMEA scholarships for workers' children

Secretary of Ministry of Industry Dr Md Nurul Amin urged the owners of garments industries to ensure timely payment of wages and providing other facilities to garment workers.

He was addressing a scholarship giving ceremony of the school going children of the workers of different garment industries in Chittagong on Tuesday.

BGMEA organised the ceremony on the eve of May Day at a local community centre with its First Vice President MA Salam in the chair.

Out of 1130 applicants, 500 students got scholarships and educational equipments.

Dr Amin lauded the BGMEA leaders for taking initiatives for welfare of the workers.

BGMEA directors Ershad Ullah,

Syed Ahsanul Hoque Shamim, Md Ferdous, Md M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Rana, former president SM Fazlul Hoque, former first vice-president Md Shahjahan, Khalilur Rahman, Mahabub Ali, SM Abu Tyeb, Moinuddin Ahmed Pintu, and ASM Saifuddin addressed.

### FCC founding anniversary celebrated

The 49th founding anniversary of Faujdharhat Cadet College (FCC) was

celebrated amid festivity and grandeur on the college campus at Sitakunda on Saturday.

Different sports and cultural competitions were held on the occasion. Organised by Old Faujians Association (OFA), Chittagong in association with FCC. Essay and painting competitions were held in participation of only the resident cadets.

Cadet Utsa, Cadet Sami and Cadet Sajid secured the first, second and third places respectively in the essay competition where OFn (old faujian) Prof Ersahd Kamal Khan of Chittagong University was the chief judge.

Cadet Tushit, Cadet Rafayet and Cadet Shwshata won the first, second and third prize respectively in the painting competition. Prof Nazli Mansur of Chittagong (Govt) Art College was the chief judge at the painting competition.

Besides, a basketball match was held between the resident cadets and former cadets

Later, a prize giving ceremony was held with OFA, Chittagong President M Saiful Islam in the chair.

FCC acting principal Babil Rashid, College Adjutant Major Razul and OFA, Chittagong General Secretary Dr Mezbah Uddin Ahmed were present at the ceremony.

### 8 pirates arrested

Members of Bangladesh Coast Guard, East Zone in separate drives on Wednesday and Thursday arrested eight people on charge of stealing ropes from two foreign vessels.

Sources said a patrol team of Coast Guard in a drive chased an engine boat fleeing after stealing the ropes from Panama flagged merchant ship Eagle Prestige at the outer anchorage area on Wednesday.

The pirates were identified as Md Nur Islam, 35, Md Mansur, 40, Abdul Karim, 25 and Md Ismail, 25.

The Coast Guard men also recovered a rope worth around Tk 3.16 lakh and seized the engine boat.

Another patrol team with the help of Bangladesh Navy managed to arrest four pirates on board an engine boat at the Charley Outer Anchorage of Chittagong Port while the miscreants were fleeing after stealing rope from a Panama flag career merchant vessel - MV Cape Bonavista on Thursday.

The arrestees were identified as Abdul Kader, 40, son of Ahmed Nabi, Mahiuddin Mahim, 35, son of late Abdul Hamid, Md Hasem, 28, son of late Khuliya Mia and Md Selim, 22, son of late Abdul Jalil hailed from Anwara upazila.

### Implement UN charter on persons with disability

Speakers urged the government to implement the United Nations (UN) Disabled Rights Charter immediately to establish the equal right and dignity of the persons with disability of the country.

They were addressing a meeting organised by Centre for Disabilities Concern (CDC) at its training centre on Thursday.

CDC Executive Adviser Prof Mahbubur Rahman was the chief guest at the discussion with CDC President Selim Nazrul in the chair.

Speakers also thanked government for signing the charter.



Krishnachura (flamboyant tree) is in full bloom on the roadside at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory area in Anwara, giving a scenic beauty to Chittagong during the summer.



Artiste Priyotosh Barua and his group perform violin at a programme organised by Portrait on Wednesday, left, while Yusuf, a street artiste, along with his group performs flute at the auditorium of Chattagram Academy on Friday.

STAR PHOTO