

## GPA-5 achievers scuffle for admission

Three govt colleges are their favourite

### DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Many achievers of the highest Grade Point Average (GPA)-5 in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations under Chittagong Board will not have opportunity to get admission to the renowned government colleges this year due to age-based selection system and lack of required number of seats.

Of 61,961 examinees, 35,903 came out successful in the board this year with a percentage of 57.94, a slide from the year 2006 (63.87 percent).

Of them, 3,313 students secured GPA-5 -- 2,509 from science group, 760 from business studies and 44 from humanities group.

Of the renowned colleges, Chittagong College, Haji Md Mohsin College and City College

have started distribution of forms from July 4.

Many students with GPA-5 from science group face uncertainty as they may not get the opportunity to study in their desired colleges.

Sources said the dreams of around 1,159 GPA-5 achievers from science group are certain to be shattered as they will not have chance to study in any of the three colleges for lack of seats. These colleges have only 1,350 seats for science students.

The other factor that will frustrate many urban talents this year is the quota system to accommodate the students from rural areas. As per the new system, at least 10 per cent of the total seats in city colleges will be reserved for them.

According to the new system the colleges will select the students who got A+ in all subjects and then A+ in English, Higher

Maths, Physics or Chemistry, board sources said.

Later, the college authorities will go for age-based selection which will certainly benefit the elderly students like previous year, sources added.

Hasan Ferdous Chowdhury, a GPA-5 achiever from Muslim High School, said it is very frustrating that a student will not have the opportunity to study at his desired college just for his age though he or she fulfills all requirements.

"We cannot support such a system where merit of a student is not judged properly," said Hasan.

Prof Iftekhar Ahmed Khan, principal of Chittagong College, however, said age-based selection is the last option after selecting the students on the basis of SSC results.

He said they will arrange a quiz of 10 marks in case of more students with same ages.

Abu Zafar, a guardian, said

the college authorities can arrange admission tests in this situation.

Prof Md Nurul Huda Sikder, principal of Haji Mohsin College, said the present system of admission is better for fair selection as there is no scope for nepotism or corruption in this system.

Rahenara Begum, former deputy director of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Department, said lack of enough government colleges with congenial environment for quality education forces the students to fight for admission in few colleges where seats are limited.

She stressed the need for opening different shifts, establishing more government colleges as well as improving atmosphere for quality education in private colleges to meet the present demand.

## CDA moves raise hope for a planned city

### SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The drive against illegal structures and a move for revival of 19 primary canals and Chakta Khal by the Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) have raised the hope of a planned city in Chittagong in future.

Although the CDA has a master plan for the development of the 60 square kilometer port city, it was hardly able to implement the work as per the plan due to the unplanned residential plots, buildings, commercial structures, shopping malls or markets, mindless hill cutting, unabated encroachment of footpaths or parts of roads, and grabbing of canals, including the Chakta Khal, backbone of the city's sewerage system.

Officials concerned also cited political influence and misuse of power by the rank and file of the ruling parties during the successive governments in the past two decades as major factor that had always stood in the way of its master plan.

Given the unique natural setting of Chittagong, nestled with river, hills, zigzag canals across the city, and the Bay of Bengal, every citizen here had dreamt of a planned and beautiful city.

Our master plan was prepared keeping in mind their expectations, and the future expansion and urbanisation of the city, said CDA Chairman Shah Md Akhtaruddin.

But our efforts had been frustrated by the grabbers backed by political elements, who violated set-back rules, having feeble respect towards the laws, he said, adding that now time has come to do the job without fear or favour for the greater interest of the city.

To bring back the past glory of the city, the CDA has started a massive eviction drive against the encroachers along the banks of Chakta Khal on June 19. The drive that began



Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) demolishes unauthorised portion of its three-story Hotel Jaman at GEC intersection on Friday after receiving a notice from Chittagong Development Authority (CDA).

from the mouth of the river Karnaphuli will continue until July 20 up to Bohaddarhat Point of the canal covering an area of around five and a half kilometres, CDA officials said.

Earlier, the CDA served notice to all the encroachers of the Chakta Khal asking them to remove their structures on their own. Many of them have already cleared their unauthorised establishments prior to the eviction drive.

Acting CCC mayor M Manjur Alam and CDA Chairman Shah Md Akhtaruddin inaugurated a project of Tk 6 crore to construct six-km road to be named Chakta-Mariners Road on both the sides of the canal.

CCC will construct the road in cooperation with the CDA. The road will be a milestone in the development of city's road network, said Shah Akhtar. He said the road will have 20 landing points on both the sides

ever the faults, deviations or irregularities in their plans, structures or plots have for long.

The city dwellers, who have plots and structures but didn't obtain any plan against those, deviated CDA plan or design or encroached part or whole of roads and footpaths, attended the meetings.

The move is part of our continued efforts to bring an order in the overall housing system in the port city that have long been in a mess and to create scope for better urbanisation for the citizens, keeping in mind the growing expansion and demand in future, said the CDA chairman.

The authorities have so far identified 950 structures in question and asked the owners to remove unauthorised portion of their structures by July 25.



The link road between Bohaddarhat and Shah Amanat Bridge, one of the busy roads in the port city, turns into a ditch during the rainy season only to add to suffering of the pedestrians as well as the passengers.

ZOBAER HOSSAIN/SKODER

### Proper birth registration stressed

Speakers at a view exchange meeting in the port city on Tuesday stressed the need for combined efforts by the government, non-government and autonomous organisations for proper birth registration.

"More than 10 per cent of the total population of Bangladesh are the disabled but their accurate figure could be known due to lack of proper registration," they said.

Centre for Disabled (CDC) organised the meeting at their Training Centre at MM Ali Road on the occasion of "National Birth Registration Day-2007."

Member of District Special Taskforce

for Registration and CDC Director Selim Nazrul was the key speaker in the meeting while CDC member Odhr Chandra Dey presented a paper on birth registration.

Women Organiser Nasima Banu Beauty, Educationist Omar Faruk and CDC members Mohammad Helal Uddin, Aminur Rahman, Shahriar Hasan, Tareq Mohammad Iqbal and Shaheda Akther took part in the open discussion.

### Bank Alfarah observes founding anniversary

The 10th founding anniversary of Bank Alfarah was observed at Agrabad branch in the port city on Saturday.

Officers of local branches attended the ceremony.

General manager of the bank Mohammad Ali Chowdhury said the bank has been contributing to economic development of the country and it will emerge as a top level bank of the country soon.

He said the bank has three branches in Bangladesh and activities of two other branches will start soon.

### Huge pilferage of water unearthed

A mobile court in separate drives unearthed huge pilferage of water and revenue evasion at a multi-storyed building and industries in the port city on Wednesday and Thursday.

The court, led by Chittagong Port

Authority Magistrate (CPA) Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, realised around Tk 10 lakh during the drives at Halishahar and Port Connecting Road areas in the port city.

The court during its drive found that lakhs of litres of water of Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) were being stolen with motors and collecting from nearby five-storyed building illegally by an industry at Port Connecting Road.

The court fined the industry -- Fabian Zipper Industries -- Tk 3.37 lakh instantly as penalty and compensation.

The court also realised Tk 6.84 lakh from MH Elastic and Accessories for collecting water from underground connection of Wasa line without any meter at the same area.

In another drive the court detected irregularities in water connection and meter reading of Cafe Relax and Matribhumi Community Centre. The cafe and community centres were fined Tk 30,000.

### Tree fair concludes

A 19-day 'Tree Plantation Movement and Tree fair-2007' concluded in the port city on Thursday.

Chittagong Forest Department, district administration and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) jointly organised the fair at Laldighi Maidan from June 17.

CCC acting mayor M Manjur Alam was the chief guest at the concluding ceremony with the fair committee convener and Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ashraf Shamim in the chair.

Conservator of Forest of Chittagong circle Dr Saiful Islam was the special guest while Chittagong (North) Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Mohammad Badrul Anam Bhuiyan was also present.

Speakers in the ceremony called upon the people to come forward for tree plantation.

The fair will help create awareness about tree plantation, conservation and

proper utilisation of the resources for economical and environmental development of the country, the speakers said.

A total of 3,500 lakh saplings of different species were sold at Tk 50 lakh in the fair, the organisers said.

Later, the guests handed over prizes to three nurseries and certificates to the participants.

A total of 49 nurseries and organisations, both the government and non-government, took part in the fair.

### NGOs' cooperation sought

Acting mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) called upon the non-government organisations (NGOs) working in the port city to extend their

helping hands in its activities.

"Participation of the NGOs will accelerate the activities of the CCC in birth registration, addressing waterlogging, landslides and cleaning," he said.

He was addressing a meeting with the NGOs at the CCC auditorium on Thursday.

CCC Secretary AKM Khairul Alam, acting Chief Health Officer Dr Mohammad Ali, NGO representative Mahtuzul Haq of Green Bangladesh, Mohammad Jalal Uddin of Aunter, Rezia Begum of Banaful, Jesmin Sultan Paru of Elma and Swapna Talukder of Mamata were present at the meeting.

The NGO representatives also assured the acting mayor of all cooperation on different issues.

Chittagong Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Syeda

Ferdous Akter was the chief guest with the City Social Service Project Coordinating Committee President Helal Humayun in the chair.

National Social Welfare Association former executive member Sheikh Mohammad Jahangir, the organisation's officer Mohammad Arif Hossain, the coordinating committee Vice-President Hafez Md Aman Ullah, Joint Secretary Abdur Rahman Mintu and Treasurer Syed Morshed Hossain were present at the function.

Later, the guest handed over Tk 1.03 lakh to 11 persons with disability of Hamza Kha Lane slum, Tk 2.05 lakh to 22 of Bolirhat slum and Tk 6.70 lakh to 66 of Kotwali, Panchlaish, Khulshi, Bayezid, Chandgaon and Bakolia police stations.

Chittagong Social Welfare Department Deputy Director Syeda



Beautician Kaniz Almas speaks at a function titled 'Meril Snigdha Sundar Roop Rahashyer Nanan Katha' organised by Square Toiletries at Agrabad Women's College on Thursday.



Visitors admire the photographs of five young artists at a six-day exhibition titled 'Lifescape' organised by Alliance Francaise on Saturday.

STAR PHOTO

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