

# Dustbins overflow in a city of clean repute

Lack of proper waste disposal management poses a threat to public health and environment

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Lack of proper waste disposal management has turned Chittagong into a city of garbage, posing a threat to human health and environment.

The roadside dustbins and containers and every nook and corner these days are hardly found without garbage littering all around in a city that had a reputation until recently as a clean one.

City dwellers blamed the indifference to the problem and inaction of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) for the 'worsening' situation. The CCC, however, said they are handicapped owing to shortage of manpower and lack of sufficient number of vehicles.

"I've been practising at Dewan Bazar for the past 20 years. This busy road was always nice and clean until end of 2006. But for the last few months, the scenario has changed completely as the dustbins overflow with garbage. The CCC cleaners or vehicles are hardly seen nowadays to clear the overflowing dustbins in the densely-populated ward," Dr

Swapan Kumar Chowdhury, a child and asthma specialist at Didar Market Chamber, told this correspondent pointing his finger at the pile of garbage.

He said the odour from the heap of garbage might cause health hazards like pneumonia, asthma, typhoid, jaundice and other airborne diseases to the passers-by especially the children.

Inhabitants of Didar Market said only 50 private small vans collect garbages from adjoining residential areas of Chandrapura, Anderkilla and DC Road everyday and dump those in an open container of CCC, just in front of the market. The garbage often occupy large portion of the road.

The pedestrians, including students, office goers and garment workers, suffer much as most of the dustbins and containers on the alleys and thoroughfares remain filled with garbage for several days.

The overflowing dustbins are common sight at Halishahar, Agrabad Access Road, Choumuhani, Pathantuli Road, Kadamtali, Reazuddin Bazar, Station Road, Firingee Bazar,

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Momin Road, Dewan Bazar, Chawk Bazar, Chittagong Medical College Hospital area and OR Nizam Road.

Although piles of garbage rot all the day or several days in a row to pollute the air and pose a threat to health hazards, the CCC mostly turns a blind eye to the problem, said the locals.

Mohammed Ekramul Haque, a businessman and resident of Sabujbag area in Halishahar, said the CCC cleaners are most irregular in their area. The garbage remains

unouched for several days making nuisance for the residents of the area, he said.

Dewan Bazar Traders Association General Secretary Tridiv Dhar said they have written several letters in vain to the CCC Conservancy Department to address the menace.

Dewan Bazar Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Hasan Mahmud Hasni said shortage of vehicles and sufficient dustbins have made the situation beyond tolerance. He too urged the authorities to take immediate

steps to get rid of the situation.

Imam Hossain Liton, a businessman of OR Nizam Road, said, "We have become habituated to live with the garbage in our areas," said.

Five private clinics and several posh markets are situated in the area.

The CCC has 1,243 dustbins and 36 containers for 41 wards and a workforce of 1,855 cleaners and staffs.

The CCC officials said it is really hard to cope with the growing demand of the citizens with this workforce.

Besides, 103 vehicles of the CCC are not sufficient by any means to collect over 1,000 tonnes of garbage daily from the dustbins and containers and two dumping grounds at Halishahar and Roufabad, said CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Saifuddin Mahmud Katabi.

Of the vehicles, 54 move in the morning, 42 in the afternoon and seven in the evening, he said.

Katabi said, "The CCC team usually rushes to different spots more than once a day on the basis of the importance of a particular area."



A waste picker scavenges through garbage piling up on the roadside as the dustbin is overflowing at Pathantuli Road.



Hindu devotees bring out a colourful procession to celebrate the annual Jagannath Rath Jatra (chariot procession) on Monday.

## Mobile court makes Wasa active, smoothens supply

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The mobile court drive against pilferage of Chittagong Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) supplied-water and evasion of revenue raises a hope that the operation will mitigate the water crisis facing the city dwellers..

The mobile court drives in the last seven and a half months helped Wasa reduce pilferage of water in the name of "system loss" by 40 to 50 per cent when the city dwellers hailed the authorities for ensuring normal supply of water to them.

The mobile court also realised over Tk 80 lakh of outstanding bills, they said.

Chittagong Wasa has capacity to produce some 180 Million Litre a Day (MLD) against the demand of around 500 MLD, causing water crisis throughout the year in the port city.

The crisis worsened further as Wasa had failed to check pilferage of water through illegal connection and unauthorised deep

tube-wells that caused fall in the ground water level, sources said.

The Wasa on different occasions expressed its vow to launch a crackdown on the illegal practice exercised in connivance with a section of its dishonest officials and staffs.

But, nothing could be done in this regard until a mobile court launched a drive titled "Operation Save Wasa" on November 30, 2006.

The drive led by Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury had succeeded in checking in pilferage of water and malpractice in distribution.

The mobile court has so far

realised around Tk 4 crore as fine and compensation for pilfering Wasa water through fraudulence and irregularities like illegal connection and meter tampering.

It also realised Tk 1.35 crore as revenue evaded through illegal installation of deep tube-wells, said the sources.

At the same time the court has

standing bills.

The court disconnected over 70 illegal connections of different commercial and industrial firms and convicted 76 influential people for illegal practices.

The court also arrested 118 people, including owners and senior officials of industries, commercial buildings, hotels and restaurants, on charge of water pilferage.

Wasa officials said apart from realising the outstanding bills of years, the regular collection of revenues has increased following the punitive measures by the mobile court.

The court also recommended stern action against a number of Wasa officials and employees, mostly working in the field level, to stop illegal practice, said Magistrate Munir Chowdhury on Monday.

He said he would continue the drive against the pilferers of water and tax evaders without fear or favour.

The mobile court on July 12 fined an industrial unit Tk 17.75

lakh for pilfering around 10 crore litres of water and evading tax.

It unearthed the pilferage of water at Messers Synthetic Resin Products Limited, an industrial unit, of which Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCC) President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury is one of the directors.

The court also found a huge stock of 30,000 gallons of Wasa supplied water in an overhead tank of the unit.

The court also unearthed several incidents of revenue evasion of Tk 18.16 lakh by an industrial unit and four apartments on July 15 and 16.

The industrial units are Chittagong Dying and Printing Limited at Pahartali Sagorika Road and four multi-storied apartments -- Salam Heights, Equity Sylvestra, Equity Insignia and MHL Meridian, in the city's posh Khulshi area.

The court directed them to pay Tk 25.94 lakh as revenue, fine and compensation.

## the week that was

**'Set up more private universities in Ctg'**

Speakers at a seminar said development of human resources and the quality education are prerequisites for the technology-based world.

They were addressing a seminar on 'The role of a university in human resource development of Bangladesh' organised by University of Information Technology and Science on Friday.

Publisher and Managing Editor of Dainik Purbokone Jasim Uddin Chowdhury was the chief guest at the seminar with UITS Chairman Sufi Mizanur Rahman in the chair.

Adviser of the university Dr Mohammad Solaiman presented the keynote paper.

The speakers emphasised setting up of more private universities in Chittagong in order to promote higher education in Chittagong.

"If our students are not educated properly they will not get better jobs in this era of information technology and privatisation," they said.

UIT Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof Dr Md A Aziz, Principal of City College Prof Md Shamsuddoha, Prof Md Manjurul Hoque Chowdhury, Professor Dr Jahangir Bin Sarwar and a student of the university Md Mohiuddin spoke at the seminar.

**Publication ceremony held**

Eminent social scientist Dr Anupam Sen said attractive poetry and other children literatures will help the urban adolescents grow properly.

"Lack of adequate places for play in the city have confined our children to their homes," he said.

Dr Sen was addressing as chief guest the publication ceremony of a juvenile poetry book 'Roder Kona Rupor Shikhi' of poet Shibu Kanti Das at Chittagong Academy auditorium on Friday.

Malancha, a literature group of Patiya, organised the function with its president Prof Ajit Kumar Mitra in the chair.

Dr Hasan Mahmud of East West University was the special guest at the ceremony. Poet Rashed Rauf, Sujan Barua, story writer Bipul Barua, researcher Muhammad Ishak Chowdhury and Dr Dilip Bhattacharjee also spoke.

Speakers at a workshop on Saturday emphasised acquiring efficiency in latest technologies introduced in Readymade Garment (RMG) sector to cope with the present demands.

Local entrepreneurs should be familiar with the modern technologies because hi-tech machineries will control most of the industries in future, they said.

They said that at the inaugural ceremony of a five-day long workshop on "Acquiring Technology of Swing Machine at RMG", jointly organised by two foreign industries Autos and Brother at Hotel Agrabad.

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Chairman T Yarmadar in the chair.

Representative of Brother (Japan) Harumi Iguchi, Manager of Brother (Bangladesh) Raihan Uddin Khan, Assistant Manager Raju Ahmed and General Manager of Autos (Delhi) Yasumi Suzuki spoke at the workshop.

Officials of over 50 companies like KDS Group, Pacific Jeans, Sunmen Group participated in the workshop.

**Food distributed among children**

Speakers urged the non-government organisations to expand their activities and work side by side with the government initiatives for the betterment of underprivileged, poor and orphan children of the society.

They made the call at a function to distribute foods among the children organised by SOS Shishu Palli (Children's Village), Chittagong on Saturday.

Chief Executive Officer of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Md Imtiaz Hossain Chowdhury was the chief guest at the function with Headmaster of Halishahar Housing Estate Government Primary School Dulal Kanti Dev in the chair.

Project Director of the SOS Foyzul Kabir made the welcome address.

SOS organised the food distribution programme under the Family Empowerment Project of SOS Social Centre.

CCC ward commissioners Javed Nazrul Islam, Md Hossain and Kabir Ahmad were present as special guests.

Later a cultural function was held performed by the children of the Shishu Palli.

**Mishmak hands over apartments**

Mishmak Development Limited, a Chittagong-based real estate firm, handed over apartments of its first project to the buyers in a function on Saturday.

Abu Sufian, former president of Chittagong Press Club, was present the chief guest at the ceremony held at Khulshi with Mishmak Chairman Mizanur Rahman Shahin in the chair.

Kazi Aminul Hoque, president of Real Estate and Housing Association in

Bangladesh (REHAB), Chittagong chapter was present as special guest.

Chief Designer of Interspace, a construction firm, Abdullah Al Hasan Rizvi, Mishmak AGM Tulu Us Shams, Senior Sales Manager Ashraf Khalid Newaj and Marketing Manager Aparup Aich also spoke.

Speakers hoped that Mishmak would be able to add new dimension to the housing sector in the port city.

Later keys of the flats were handed over to the owners.

**Prof Jasim**

**made CU proctor**

Professor Mohammad Jasim Uddin took over the charge of proctor of Chittagong University (CU) on Thursday.

Vice-Chancellor Prof M Badil Alam appointed Prof Jasim of Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences as proctor for one year, sources said.

Out going Proctor Prof Didarul Alam Chowdhury of Chemistry Department completed his tenure of one year on Thursday.



Singer Sharif Khaled performs at a solo musical show organised by Academy of Performing Arts, Chittagong at Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) on Thursday.



A road in the Dev Pahar area was damaged due to excessive rainfall.