



Staffs work risking their lives at the century-old CCC building while cracks have developed on the walls and ceilings of most of the rooms of the dilapidate building.

CCC original building at risk of collapse

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

ing safety of city dwellers, CCC is quite indifferent to the safety of its own officials and staffs working there.

The three-storey old building, which now stands as an annex of the six-storey new building, has lost its strength to such an extent that its floors shake terribly when any heavy vehicle pries on the nearby roads.

Cracks have developed in almost every wall and ceiling of the building and plasters frequently fall down from the ceiling injuring officials and employees.

But, the authorities are yet to take any initiative to renovate the

building or shift its officials and employees to a safer place, alleged the sources in CCC.

"Water also seep through the ceilings and pour into the rooms during heavy downpours," said CCC Assistant Secretary Nazrul Islam while talking to this correspondent at his office on the second floor of the building.

"One of our staffs received injury when plaster fell on his head around two months back," Nazrul said, adding, "We informed the high officials of the incident calling for immediate step and they assured us of demolishing the old building that might cost Tk 2 to 3 crore."

To stop the rainwater from entering inside, the authorities covered the rooftop of the building with tins.

Condition of the top floor is very miserable as many large cracks have developed there, sources said.

Superintendent Engineer (Circle-2) Nizam Uddin Chowdhury admitted the miserable condition of the building.

He said they are thinking of constructing a new multi-storyed building with parking and other necessary facilities after demolishing the old building that might cost Tk 2 to 3 crore.

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Several thousand people of different railway colonies at Pahartali area in the port city fear inundation whenever it rains.

The people of these colonies experience untold sufferings due to serious waterlogging even after a little downpour of medium scale.

"Only a drain that has been lying without renovation for years is the main reason behind our woes and sufferings," said Golam Mostafa, a retired Loco Master of Bangladesh Railway residing here for the last 20 years.

The 5300-ft long drain stretching from Foy's Lake adjoining Jalalabad Murgi Farm area to Nimgala Khal under Bandar Police Station passes through different Railway colonies like Executive Engineer's (XEN) Colony, Master Lane Colony, Panjabi Lane Colony, Firoj Shah Colony and Saraipara.

The drain is connected with the river Karnaphuli through Nimgala Khal.

The 20-foot width drain near Chittagong Television (CTV) building has now narrowed down to three feet to four feet at many points.

The colony dwellers blamed absence of proper drainage system for waterlogging and inundation.

In absence of proper maintenance and disposal of garbage at many points of the drain and illegal structures on both the sides have worsened the situation further, they said.

Loosen earth flowing with rainwater also fills up the drain as the development work of the hilltop sites for Imperial Hospital and Police Line of GRP continues without constructing retaining walls.

Besides, a road, developed by USTC authorities, has been left uncarpeted for over a year also contributes to the filling of the drain.

As a result, the areas of XEN and Master Lane colonies and a part of Wireless and Panjabi Lane colonies are inundated with drain water after a one-hour of downpour.

Dirty water enters almost all 144 quarters of the railway

employees in XEN colony and 178 quarters in Master Lane colony.

About 1000 houses that grew up illegally on the railway land adjoining the quarters also submerge under rainwater.

The quarters of XEN colony and Master Lane colony were inundated by waist-deep water due to excessive rain on June 11, forcing the inmates to leave for safe shelter.

The affected families took shelter in the neighbouring Wireless Colony and Panjabi Lane that are situated comparatively on a high high land, said Jahangir Babu, a resident of Master Lane.

"We didn't face such a situation in the last 15 years like June 11 when boundary walls of many quarters of two colonies collapsed," he said.

Loco Master Kabir Ahmad, also a resident of Master Lane, said most of his wooden furniture, including beds, coaches, chairs and tables and electric appliances like television and table fan

were damaged when the colony remained under rainwater for three days since June 11.

Waterlogging is now a common scene in the colonies, causing sufferings to the dwellers throughout the year, Kabir said.

The retaining walls erected on both the sides of the drain during the Pakistan era started getting damaged since 1985 and vanished by 1990, said Khondaker Md Khaled, a teacher of XEN Colony Social Welfare Coaching Centre.

No step has been taken so far by the railway authorities to re-construct the retaining walls, he added.

Md Ramzan Ali, divisional engineer (DEN)-2, said he informed the matter to the divisional railway manager and chief engineer (east) when the order for re-excavation and renovation work of the drain was made.

"We have started preliminary work in this regard and hope to start re-excavation soon to restore normal state of the drain," said Engineer Ramzan.



The drain that had a width of 20 feet at starting point near CTV building at Pahartali is about to disappear due to encroachment.

STAR PHOTO

the week that was



Participants pose at a beauty contest titled 'Mister and Miss Beautiful Chittagong-2007' organised by Portrait at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Monday.

15 lighter vessels fined

A mobile court on Thursday fined Tk 3 lakh to 15 lighter vessels and restricted their movement for lack of required documents and equipments.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drive with a view to restricting risky movement of lighter vessels in the port channel and its adjoining areas.

The court fined the vessels for movement without required documents and radio communicating equipments in the port channel.

The vessels are MV Shamprity, MV Sun Coast, MV Glory of Sri Nagar-4, MV Mumun Setu-2, MV Titu-1, MV Titu-6, MV Titu-10, MV Basundhara Logistic-1, MV Basundhara Logistic-3, MV Basundhara Logistic-9, MV Basundhara Logistic-13, MV Basundhara Logistic-16, MV Tasnova-1, MV Nure Rifat and MV Junse.

The court ordered the vessels not to move during rough weather and to stay in safe areas of the port.

Prize giving ceremony held

Annual prize giving ceremony of Presidency International School was held at Swiss Park Community

Centre in the port city on Friday.

Prof M Umar Ali, vice-chancellor of Manarat University in Dhaka, was present as the chief guest with the School Principal Lt Col (Retd) Mohammad Ziauddin in the chair.

Speakers at the ceremony said students of the English medium schools are being impressed with the western culture, creating indiscipline in their lives.

Presidency International School is trying to build up the students according to religious order and culture of the country, they said.

They called upon the students to be ethical and prove honesty and quality alongside their regular studies.

School Governing Body Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed also spoke.

Later, the guests handed over prizes among the winners.

Aramit Ltd declares 37 pc dividend

Aramit Limited, a corrugated cement roofing sheets and pipes manufacturing industry in the port city, declared 37 percent dividend for the shareholders in its 36th Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AGM was held at

Chittagong Club on Thursday with the company Board of Directors Chairman Mohammad Ziaul Haque Khondker in the chair.

Managing Director Saifuzzaman Chowdhury and Executive Director and Company Secretary Ibrahim Khalil spoke at the AGM.

Officials announced that the company earned a net profit of Tk 5.98 crore this year ended on December 31, 2006.

The company contributed over Tk 8.88 crore to the national exchequer as value added tax (VAT), income tax and customs duty during the year.

The company Auditor Shaukat Hossain, directors Mohammad Humayun Kabir, Aminul Islam, Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Wahiduzzaman Khandaker and a large number of shareholders attended the AGM.

School Governing Body Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed also spoke.

Later, the guests handed over prizes among the winners.

CMUJ-Ispahani sports ends

Prize giving ceremony of the month-long Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) - Ispahani annual sports was held in the port city on Thursday.

Acting Chittagong City

Corporation (CCC) Mayor M Manjur Alam was the chief guest at the function while Ispahani Group of Companies General Manager Minhaz Uddin Ahmed was the special guest with CMUJ President Shamsul Haque Haidari in the chair.

Of the events for male, Mahabubur Rahman (STV) became champion in carom single while Shahidul Islam (Islamic TV) was the runner up.

Mahabubur Rahman and Mostak Khandaker group became champion in carom double. Madhul Kabir (Amar Desh) won the title in chess while Farhad Chowdhury (BTV) runner up.

Later, the guests handed over prizes among the winners.

Dutch-Bangla Bank gets CSR award

Shapla Sangha, a social service organisation at Khatunganj, accorded reception to the children of its members who got GPA-5 in the SSC examination.

Prof Swadesh Kumar Chakravarty was present as the chief guest at the reception held in the port city on Thursday with the organisation acting president Jotirmoy Chowdhury in the chair.

The organisation former president Parimal Das also spoke.