

# Plan to take stern action against polluters of Karnaphuli

DoE meets tomorrow after a lapse of two months of expiry of deadline

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

The Department of Environment (DoE) will take stern action against the industrial units that have failed to meet the deadline of October 31, 2007 for dumping wastes after refining in the river Karnaphuli.

The DoE will hold with the local administration, including deputy commissioner and representatives from Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) and Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), on January 10 in this regard.

The meeting is being held after a lapse of two months to finalise the next course and method of actions against the defaulters, sources said.

Initiative has been taken to protect the river Karnaphuli, lifeline of Chittagong, from pollution that has been posing

a threat to the aquatic species as well as the human health for long.

The DoE served notices to the industrial units that have been contributing to the rampant pollution of the river Karnaphuli by dumping different types of wastes everyday.

Only 10 percent of the industries responded positively to the deadline for dumping the wastes after refining in the river expired on October 31 last year, said DoE Director Mohammad Nazmul Haque.

He said dumping of the wastes after refining by the remaining industrial units are under process. He said stern action will be taken against those who are yet to comply with the directive.

Sources at DoE said more than 700 industrial units in the port city, division and both the banks of the river stretching from the estuary of the Karnaphuli to Chandraghona

under Kaptai upazila in Rangamati district, have long been dumping chemical and other wastes in the river directly or indirectly.

The industrial units include Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company (Kafco), Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL), Karnaphuli Paper Mill (KPM), Karnaphuli Rayon Complex, 19 tanneries, 26 textile mills, two chemical industries, five fish processing industries, two soap industries, two pesticide plants and an asphalt bitumen plant.

Most of the industries are situated in Kalurghat Heavy Industrial Areas, Roufabad in Oxygen area, Aturer Depot, Bayezid Bostami, Chaktai, Khatunganj and Sadarghat areas.

Nazmul said of the industries, Kafco, CUFL, Karnaphuli Paper Mills and tanneries are greatly attributing to the pollution of the all-important river.

In addition to these, house-

hold wastes of around 38 lakh people from 41 wards in CCC also find their ways to the river through different canals like Mohesh Khal (canal), Doomkhali Khal, Chaktai Khal, Nasir Khal, Monohorkhali Khal, Sadarghat Khal and Razakhali Khal.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, assistant professor of Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries at Chittagong University (CU), emphasised the need for identifying the actual threatening areas on the banks of the river.

Prof Shahdat, who conducted several researches on pollution of the river, said pollution will decrease automatically if different structures are built on both the banks of the river under the government control for different purposes.

He said the DoE efforts along with the administration should be well-managed and need strict supervision to achieve the goal.



The river Karnaphuli is being polluted due to disposal of toxic wastes by different industrial units in Chittagong and an open latrine, inset, on the bank of Karnaphuli in Majhirghat area in the port city.



Chittagong University campus has become a sanctuary for birds and other species. Clockwise from left: Parrot, shalik, butterfly and nightingale. Prof Dr Gazi Syed Md Asmat of CU Zoology Department said a total of 157 species of birds, out of 788, inhabit the green campus.

## CDA HOUSING PROJECT

# Allotment of plots within a month likely

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) is likely to start allotment of plots under its largest-ever housing project in the Ananya Residential Area within a month.

A patch of land acquired for Bakhraabad Gas System Limited (BGS) and a few pieces of private land in the project area delayed the process of land acquisition, making the implementation of Tk 300 crore housing project uncertain.

The district administration sent the matter to the land ministry for instructions before acquisition and handing over of the land to CDA, raising concern among some 5200 applicants, who got a total deposit money of Tk 220 crore blocked in the project.

They submitted application forms in October last year for

1521 plots in Ananya R/A being developed on 174 acres of land beside the under-construction Oxygen-Quaish Road, sources said.

The district administration has resumed the acquisition of land after having clearance from the land ministry last week while CDA is preparing to hold open lottery for allotment of plots within a month, sources added.

Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim said the have resumed the land acquisition process after having clearance from the land ministry to hand over the land to CDA.

Tajul Islam, assistant deputy commissioner (Land Acquisition), said they will issue public notice to pay compensation money to the affected people due to acquisition of land within a day or two. He said land will be handed over to CDA within a

week.

Tajul said 0.79 acres of BGS land and few pieces of private land will be excluded from the CDA housing project as per instructions of the ministry.

In the meantime, CDA paid about Tk 194.45 crore, including service charge of Tk 15 crore, to the district administration on October 9 for acquisition of 169 acres of land.

Earlier, the administration handed over some 52 acres of land to CDA.

Delay in plot allotment process created resentment among the applicants, who deposited Tk 4 lakh to Tk 5 lakh for the plots, while many of them were also thinking of withdrawing the applications.

They said in case of losing plots in lottery the delay will mean financial loss to them since enrolment of the deposited money could have earned

them some profit every month.

They said the deposited money (amounting to Tk 220 crore) could have earned at least Tk 2 crore as interest a month if it were saved in banks.

In this regard CDA sources said delay in acquisition and handing over of land by the administration slowed down plot allotment process that could be completed by November.

CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruiddin said they are quite aware of the growing concern of the applicants and making efforts to complete the plot allotment process as early as possible.

He said they will hold lottery for allotment of the plots within a month if they get possession of the acquired land.

## theweekthatwas

### Call to work to ensure human rights

Metropolitan Session Judge AKM Anwar Hossain urged the people and organisations concerned to work for ensuring good governance and human rights in the society.

He was speaking at a workshop on 'Access to Justice' organised by Human Rights Implementation Association in collaboration with Manusher Jonna Foundation on Wednesday.

Association central treasurer Advocate Ahmad Ali presided over the workshop moderated by its Chittagong city unit President Advocate Zia Habib Ahsan.

Centre For Good Governance Chairman Prof Syed Ahsanul Alam presented the keynote paper while Chittagong District Bar Association General Secretary Sheikh Iftekhar Saimul Chowdhury and Chairman of Chittagong Medical College (CMC) Forensic Medicine Department Prof Dr Hasanuzzaman spoke.

Focusing the country's prevailing human rights situation, Prof Ahsanul placed a 10-point proposal for establishing a society based on justice. Saimul said lodging of false cases is one of the main reasons behind the

violation of human rights in the country.

### 'Take more care for children'

Speakers at a function urged the guardians to take more care for their children in preparing their study at home and involve them in extra-curricular activities to ensure their better future.

They were addressing the annual prize giving ceremony of Metropolitan Residential School and College on Wednesday.

School Inspector of Chittagong Education Board Prof Ali Hossain was the chief guest at the ceremony with Institution Chairman Advocate Golam Faruk in the chair.

Executive Director of the Institution Arifur Rahman Manik, Executive President MA Kashem, acting Principal Saiful Islam Bulbul and Vice Principal Nur Kashem Talukder also spoke.

Later, the students and teachers of the institution perform at a cultural programme.

### Relief distribution for fire-affected

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society leaders visited the fire-affected people

at two colonies at Bakalia on Wednesday.

Acting chairman of the Society's Chittagong district unit Dr Shahadat Hossain and General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Awal Chowdhury also distributed clothes and relief materials among the affected people.

They urged the rich to come forward and extend their helping hand to the distressed people.

Unit executive body members Md Abu Taher Chowdhury, Syed Abu Taleb, M Nazim Uddin and Farid Raihan were present during the distribution.

### 'Solve problems of CU visually challenged students'

Speakers urged the Chittagong University (CU) authorities to take necessary steps in solving the problems faced by the visually challenged students of the university.

They were speaking at a workshop on 'Problems of the Visually Impaired Students of Chittagong University: Ways to Solve' on Saturday.

Research and Education for the Differently Able (REDA), an organisation

of the visually impaired student of CU, arranged the workshop in cooperation with Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-government organisation.

Prof Dr Abul Kashem of CU Bengali Department was the chief guest at the workshop while Associate Professor of Philosophy Department of Government City University College Jashim Uddin and YPSA Chief Executive Md Arifur Rahman were the special guests.

YPSA Programme Officer Bhaskar Bhattacharya moderated the programme.

### Exhibition on painting on pottery begins

A six-day-long exhibition on painting on pottery began on Saturday.

Chittagong Alliance Française organised the exhibition titled 'Earthen Sequence' at its gallery.

Later, a documentary on the workshop on transforming pottery into aesthetic support of painting was presented by Azizul Quadir.

A number of works of paintings made on different household materials by artists Subrata Chowdhury and Fazle Rabby were displayed at the exhibition.

The organisers in a press release



Visitors admire the paintings on pottery by two artists Fazle Rabby and Subrata Chowdhury at an exhibition organised by Alliance Française.

said both the Oriental and Western aesthetic forms merged in their works in an artistic manner.

### Cake festival held

A daylong cake festival was held at

Government Haji Md Mohsin College on Tuesday amid enthusiasm.

College Principal Nurul Huda Sikder inaugurated the festival organised by the students and teachers of the Bangla Department on the eve of New Year.

Economics Department Chairman Prof Md Sirajuddoula, Head of the

Philosophy Prof Humayun Kabir, Head of the Bengali Prof Tahmina Akhter Nur and lecturer Gazi Golam Maula addressed the ceremony.

Around 18 kind of local cakes including Puli Pitha, Bhapa Pitha, Pua Pitha, Shainnya Pitha, Pakkan Pitha were Chitloi Pitha were displayed at the festival.

### Community policing underscored

Chittagong range Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG) AKM Shahidul Hoque underscored the need for community policing to establish a society based on justice.

He directed the officials of police department to do their duties with sincerity and honesty to help lessen the misunderstandings and gaps between police and common people.

He was addressing as the chief guest a discussion on community policing at Chittagong District Police Line on Wednesday.

He stressed on launching service delivery system in every police station in the region for providing better service.

Additional DIG Manjur Kader Khan, Range Reserve Force (RRF) Commandant Shaibal Kanti Chowdhury and Chittagong District Superintendent of Police (SP) Md Kamrul Ahsan also spoke. Senior officials, including officers-in-charge (OCs) of different police stations, participated at the discussion.