

CCC waste management in shambles

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Garbage piling up at roadside is now commonplace, as the authorities fail to dispose of all 700 tons of garbage produced in the city everyday due to lack of adequate number of dump trucks.

With only 50 dump trucks at its disposal, the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) is facing severe difficulties collecting the garbage from all points.

On an average only 20 CCC dump vehicles, out of 100, carry wastes daily, sources said. Other vehicles have been lying for over one year for repair at the main store yard of the CCC regional office in the Sagarika area.

CCC officials said of them, 18 vehicles are out of order and steps have been taken to repair the vehicles. The CCC authorities have hired 30 trucks from private companies for the waste management, they said.

Four out of six CNG-run Volvo container carriers, used for pulling mobile container (movable dustbin), have been now lying in the store, they said.

The important vehicles, including six pay loaders, seven



An open truck carries garbage at the busy Agrabad Sheikh Mujib Road, causing a serious public nuisance during daytime on Monday while the covered dump trucks, right, lying out of order at the Chittagong City Corporation main store at Sagarika Road.



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tractor-wagons, nine chain-dozers and five excavators that are used in conservancy activities, have remained out of order for long.

Forty Japanese Isuzu model

dump trucks, including 20 with cover procured in 1992, need some repair work, sources at the store yard said.

Only three, out of 18 Mitsubishi model compactors,

for dumping garbage are now in use, they said.

A CCC driver preferring anonymity said no repair work of the damaged dump trucks was done in last few months while

many of the vehicles can be turned into functional ones with little repair work.

Sources at the CCC Conservancy Department said there are 1243 permanent dust-

bins in different areas in the port city and many open spaces that have become temporary dustbins.

Around 700 tones of waste and garbage gather in these dustbins

everyday while CCC requires 70 to 80 dump trucks in three shifts a day for their disposal, they added.

Abdul Malek, Executive Engineer of Transport (Maintenance) Department, said 45 dump trucks collect garbage in the morning shift, 35 in the afternoon and five trucks at night shift and dump those in three dumping stations in the city.

But the department now can hardly provide 15 to 20 dump trucks a day and hire some trucks from private transport firms costing Tk 1300 per truck.

Chief Conservancy Officer Saifuddin Muhmud Katebi said due to shortage of dump trucks CCC hire 25 to 30 trucks daily for disposal of the wastes.

But these vehicles are not sufficient enough for disposal of the garbage properly and regularly, causing environmental pollution, sources said.

Dr Ridwanul Islam of Chittagong Medical College Hospital said many of the roadside dustbins and containers are now found overflowing for days.

Moreover, movement of

uncovered vehicles carrying wastages is causing sufferings to the commuters.

Acting Mayor M Manjur Alam said CCC hires 30 trucks to continue the conservancy activity as the condition of the damaged dump trucks is so bad which would not be economic to repair them.

He said the hired trucks are comparatively big in size and each of those carry three times more garbage than the CCC vehicles.

He said they have decided to procure some dump trucks and repair some of the damaged ones soon to improve the garbage management.

Meanwhile, the CCC at its 31st general meeting on Sunday decided to conduct its conservancy activities in ten wards primarily with the help of private initiative through out-sourcing system.

A seven-member committee has been formed comprising ward commissioners and CCC officials to observe the activities of other city corporations, including Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) before taking the decision, Manjur said.

CCC-run primary health centres stumble

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The poor and the low-income people have been deprived of proper healthcare services due to lack of sufficient medicines, human resources and infrastructures at most of the urban primary health centres in the port city.

Financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) in the period of 1998-2002 constructed 36 buildings for urban primary health centres with a view to providing healthcare services at a nominal cost to the poorer section of the people in Chittagong. Of the centres, 25 went into operation immediately after their construction at different wards in the port city to provide with the healthcare services, including vaccination and family planning.

The healthcare services at 11

other centres will start soon, sources said.

Each centre is supposed to have a team of 10 including one doctor, one field supervisor, one pharmacist, two health staffs, one nurse, one counsellor, one guard, one maid and one fourth-class employee. But many of the

over 31 types of medicines to the patients, including 18 types of tablet, six types of syrup, five types of capsule, one ointment and one drop, they said.

Liton Saha, a pharmacist at South Pahartali Noresh Mallik Urban Health Centre, said the presence of patients at his

centre is very poor as roads are in bad shape in the locality.

Liton said the centre that runs without boundary wall has suspended vaccination programme for children for two years as it hardly gets medicines of vitamin or iron for the chil-

the Oxygen area under Bazyed Bostami Police Station everyday in absence of boundary wall, said an employee of the centre.

Dr Nasim Bhuiyan, one of the two managers of the project, said over two lakh patients got healthcare services in 2007 and the number of patients are on the rise.

"Of the patients, around 50 percent is children with complications of diarrhoea, pneumonia and viral fever while 30 percent women," he said.

Dr Nasim, however, said the healthcare services hamper on many occasions for lack of sufficient and proper medicines, required number of staffs due to fund constraints.

Dr Selim Chowdhury, chief health officer of the CCC, told The Daily Star that they would send a letter to the government for sufficient fund soon to get rid of those problems.

Chittagong City Corporation has constructed 36 buildings for urban primary health centres with a view to providing healthcare services at a nominal cost to the poorer section of the people

centres are yet to get the full workforce that attributes to the disruption of proper services, said doctors and staffs at the centres.

The centres do not get adequate supply of medicines from the government where each centre is supposed to provide

centre is very poor as roads are in bad shape in the locality.

Liton said the centre that runs without boundary wall has suspended vaccination programme for children for two years as it hardly gets medicines of vitamin or iron for the chil-

larly for pregnant women and children with critical diseases. Otherwise, we won't be able to cater the need of the patients," said Dr Rumi Das of Chawk Bazar Centre.

Criminals especially the drug addicts used to reign in after dusk at the Jalalabad Centre in



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIDKER

Workers scratch off paints of a vessel in the river Karnaphuli, polluting the water with chemicals in the Firingee Bazar Bridge Ghata area on Monday. Though there is a ban on such work outside dockyards, the practice has once again become a common phenomenon in absence of mobile court drive since the transfer of CPA Magistrate Munir Chowdhury.

theweekthatwas

Encroachers asked to leave Chaktai banks

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Acting Mayor M Manjur Alam urged the encroachers to leave the banks of Chaktai Khal (canal) on their own.

He made the appeal while visiting the dredging and renovation work of Chaktai and Chaktai diversion canal on Thursday.

Terming the city corporation as a service providing institution, he said the CCC is committed to implement all development work for the welfare of

city dwellers. He sought cooperation of the citizens and asked the CCC officials to ensure 100 per cent implementation of the ongoing work.

Chaktai Canal Dredging Action Committee Chairman M Kafil Uddin, CCC Executive Engineer Mohammad Abu Saleh and local Ward Commissioner Mohammad Shahidul Alam accompanied the mayor.

Tribute paid to Prof Saleh

Speakers at a memorial meeting on Saturday paid tribute to Prof MA

Saleh, a devoted researchers and international scientist.

They said he had a great contribution at Chittagong University.

The meeting was organised to mourn the demise of Prof Saleh by CU Teachers Association (Cuta) at its office.

Cuta General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Ali, Prof Dr M Habib Ullah, Prof Dr Saroj Kanti Singho Hazari, Prof Dr Mohammad Abdus Salam, Prof Dr Monir Uddin, Prof Dr Sabir Ahmed and Prof Dr Hasan Mohammad spoke at the meeting with Cuta President Prof Dr Siddiq Ahmed Chowdhury in the chair.

Workshop on conserving bio-diversity held

A four-day long training workshop on "Conservation of Bio-diversity" concluded in the port city on Thursday. Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Chittagong and Arannayak Foundation jointly organised the workshop for the workers of non-government organisations (NGO) at the BFRI auditorium.

BFRI Chief Scientific Officer Dr Khairul Alam was the chief coordinator of the workshop while Chittagong

University (CU) Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences Prof Dr Kamal Hossain, BFRI Divisional Officer Dr Wahed Box were the trainers.

Representatives from the NGOs - Protayashi and Codec of Chittagong, IDO of Jessore, Junopror of Rangamati, OSAD of Gazipur and Uttoron of Satkhira participated in the workshop.

Issues of the workshop included forest and forest resources of Bangladesh, concept and evaluation of bio-diversity, methodology of bio-diversity survey, relation of life with the bio-diversity, importance of conserving bio-diversity, types of conservation, and conservation planning and management.

Reunion held

The '2nd Reunion Festival 2008' of Bangladesh Bank Colony High School was held in the port city on Sunday.

Old Students' Union of the school organised the programme on the school premises in the Agrabad area.

The programmes included discussion and recollection rally, cultural programme and raffle draw, dance programme and band show.

A good number of old students attended the programmes amid enthusiasm and festive mood.

The reunion President Mohammad Khorshed Alam (87th) presided over the discussion and recollection rally

while General Secretary Atiqur Rahman (89th batch), Mahubur Rahman Rupa (86th batch), Zillur Rahman Galib (86th batch), Haider Mahmud Hossain (90th batch), JM Rassel Hossain (96th batch) and Mashiur Rahman Tanim (2001 batch) spoke among others.

Reception to Ctg College principal

Speakers at a reception on Wednesday said there is no alternative to education to build a developed and prosperous country.

They called upon all to come

forward and extend their helping hands in this regard.

They were addressing a reception accorded to new principal and vice principal and eight out-going employees of Chittagong Government College.

Karmachari Dikya Parishad organised the ceremony at the college auditorium.

Principal Prof Syed Mohammad Saidullah, Vice Principal Prof Dr Dharani Kanto Biswas, Associate Professor of Botany Department AKM Fazlul Karim Chowdhury, Parishad President Mohammad Shafi Ullah, General Secretary Mohammad Abdul Hai and Organising Secretary Jasim Uddin Sumon spoke at the function.



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Shubhra Sen Gupta and her group perform dance at a ceremony, marking the Republic Day of India organised by Indian High Commission on Saturday.



Visitors admire paintings at an exhibition organised by School of Fine Arts at Shilpakala Academy auditorium on Friday.

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