

THREE NEW BUILDINGS TO OPEN AT CTG JAIL ON APRIL 5

2000 prisoners to cram into 1200-men cells on first day

NUR UDDIN ALMAMGIR

Three five-storey buildings have been constructed at Chittagong Central Jail to ease the congestion of prisoners to a great extent.

The new buildings having capacity of 1200 prisoners are scheduled to be inaugurated through shifting 2000 inmates from old buildings at the jail on April 5.

As of March 30, a total of 6704 inmates have been cramming into the existing buildings having accommodation capacity of only 1507 prisoners, including 37 female ones, sources in the jail said.

Construction of the new buildings started under a project titled "Chittagong Central Jail Modernisation and Expansion Project" in 2000.

The Public Works Department is scheduled to hand over the buildings to the jail authorities within a day or two, they said.

Under the project involving Tk 55.23 crore, a new 100-bed jail hospital, a female ward and cell, a godown, a work-shed, a case table-cum library, interview room and an administrative building are also scheduled to be constructed in place of the worn out existing buildings, they said.

With construction of these

structures implementation of the project is scheduled to be completed by 2010, they said.

"The new buildings will help ease congestion of prisoners to a great extent since on an average over 6000 inmates stay at the existing buildings in a miserable situation in the overcrowded jail," said Senior Jail Superintendent Mohammad Ataur Rahman.

Each of the new buildings will have as many as 20 wards -- four on each floor, he said.

He said the better accommodation will also help lessen violation of human rights to some extent. The existing century-old

buildings are also posing a threat to the lives of the prisoners as they can collapse due to earthquake at any time, he added.

Meanwhile, the jail authorities have been changing the traditional 'red colour' of the building following a government directive and coated the new buildings with off-white colours.

The step for changing the red colours of the prisons and other structures aimed at creating the jails as a correctional centre instead of punishment cell, sources said.

Ataur said the British government had used the red colours in government structures like court

buildings, police stations and jails perhaps as a colour indicating warning and emergency.

The existing old buildings -- two two-storey prisons, a two-storey 40-bed hospital, four tin-shed prisons for adolescent, tuberculosis patients and VIP prisoners were constructed in 1885 on 16.87 acres of land for 500 prisoners.

Three other five-storey buildings, two gallows and a two-storey building that housed 32 cells for the top-notch criminals were constructed for 1000 prisoners after turning it as Chittagong Central Jail in September 16, 1999.



The main gate of Chittagong Central Jail, left, and the newly built five-storied building, right.

Two ministries at loggerheads over new CDA organogram

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The finance ministry and the housing and public works ministry are at loggerheads over approval of the new organisational structure (organogram) of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) with a full-fledged planning wing.

The finance ministry approved the proposed organogram in the first week of March with two new posts of chief town planner and deputy chief town planner dropped, which angered the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, appointing authority at CDA, sources said.

The housing ministry sent back the proposed organogram to the finance ministry for inclusion of the two posts of chief town planner and deputy chief town planner two weeks ago, they added.

Besides, the housing ministry in its reply showed reasons for creation of two vital new posts with a full-fledged planning wing when the finance ministry wanted to know about the matter.

According to sources, CDA proposed for restructuring its organogram with creation and inclusion of 61 new posts under 26 categories and abolition of 53 obsolete ones under 14 different categories late in 2006.

The proposal was made in consistency with the Chittagong Metropolitan Master Plan (CMMP) that recommended for establishing a full-fledged planning department, empowering the CDA to plan on its own.

The ministry for housing and public works approved the revised proposal with 52 new posts under 26 categories alongside the salary scale and recruitment rules in April last year.

The establishment ministry also okayed the proposed organogram in June last year and sent it to the finance ministry for its approval.

Sources said the CMMP prepared with the technical assistance of United Nations Centre for Housing and Settlement (UNCHS) and financial assistance of United Nations Development Program (UNDP) also recommended for restructuring CDA that lacked in a full-fledged planning department and abolition of some posts which were of no use.

With the organogram CDA could have a full-fledged planning department to help implement the development plans of CMMP prepared at a cost of around Tk 12 crore, they said.

As per the new organogram CDA could have a chief town planner to head the planning department and one deputy chief town planner with three town planners and six assistant town planners working under him.

At present CDA has only one town planner and one assistant town planner.

In absence of the new organogram they have been working in the same posts for over a decade. One town planner, on condition of anonymity, said absence of the posts has discouraged them to continue service in the CDA and one of the two assistant town planners, who was recruited on temporary basis for preparing Detailed Area Plan (DAP), has resigned.

"We are also thinking of following the same way," he added.

CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhter Uddin said CDA could not be developed as a planning-based organisation due to lack of workforce, including the planners, architects and GIS operators.

He said the new organogram will help CDA perform up to the desired level and implement projects.

He said cooperation and support from all the development partners and other organisations concerned are needed in this regard.

As per the proposed organogram CDA will have one senior architect and two assistant architects in the architect wing.

It will also allow recruitment of officials to develop a strong team of two authorised officers, four assistant authorised officers and 20 inspectors to monitor development and check unplanned growth.

Earlier, there was none to coordinate between the authorised officers and the inspectors working in the field level.

In the same way the deputy secretary will fill up the gap between the assistant secretary and the secretary, who will be appointed on deputa- tion, sources said.

the week that was

Call to increase cultural activities

Speakers at a discussion underscored the need for increasing cultural activities at regional level throughout the country and patronising the artists working at grassroots level for developing the national culture and heritage.

They were speaking at an open discussion titled "Task of national organisations for the patronisation of grassroots level artists" at Islamabadi Memorial Hall on Thursday.

Bangladesh Institute for Theatre Arts (BITA) organised the discussion with a view to preparing recommendations on the issue.

Prof. Abul Mansur, actor Pijush Bandopadhyay, singer Kalpana Lala and lyricist Abdul Gafur Hali were the panel discussants at the programme with Prof. Zia Haider in the chair.

Artists working at different cultural sectors like drama, dance, recitation, 'kabi gaan' and 'jatra' in Chittagong, representatives of different non-government organisations and journalists participated in the discussion.

Speakers placed several recommendations regarding welfare and development of the artists working at

grassroots levels.

Prof. Hossain Kabir, cultural activists Shariar Khaled, Pankaj Baidya, Manash Pal, Mili Chowdhury, Abhijit Chowdhury, Dr. Dipankar Dey, journalist Shawkat Bangali, Faruk Taher and Ahmed Munir spoke at the discussion.

Demand for trial of war criminals reiterated

Speakers at a discussion said demand for trial of the war criminals and collaborators has now become the demand of mass people of the country.

They urged the caretaker government to start the process of the trial so that the elected government can not avoid the trial.

They were addressing the concluding session of the four-day Swadhinata Mela (Liberation Fair) at Municipal Model High School on Saturday.

Swadhinata Mela Uddipan Parishad organised the fair.

Actress Kabari Sarwar was the chief guest at the function with former deputy commissioner (DC) Shamsul Hoque in the chair.

Dr. Nirmanmndra Bhoomik, who was jailed on charge of creating unrest on the Dhaka University campus last

year, was also accorded a reception at the function.

General Secretary of central Mukti Juddha Sangsad Md. Salahuddin, Chittagong Bar Association President AKM Sirajul Islam, north district commander Md. Idris, poet Farida Farhad, freedom fighters Mahiuddin Rashed and Pantu Lal Saha were the special guests.

The speakers said freedom fighters have been united again like of 1971 to raise the demand for trial of the war criminals.

Later, singers Anup Nandi, Maya Chowdhury, Fatema Tuz Johara, Farman Reza, Dilip Hor, Krishna Das and Tanha Matin rendered songs a cultural programme.

Children's festival ends

The two-day children's festival titled Shishu Utsab ended on Saturday amid enthusiasm.

Speakers at a discussion on the occasion urged the guardians to inspire their children for reading books to raise their inherent merits.

Artist Hashem Khan was the chief guest at the discussion with Prof. Dr. Gazi Saleh Uddin in the chair.

Historian Muntazir Mamun, former

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) president Abu Sufian, journalists Shamir Bhattacharjee and Arun Das Gupta and Chamber Director Ferdous Khan Alamgir were the special guests.

Media Bikash Kendro-Shishuder Pathshala, an organisation for children, organised the festival.

Speakers urged the guardians to grow up their children as good citizens so that they could lead the nation and the country properly in future.

In the second session chaired by Zinnah Chowdhury, the recipients of scholarships received prizes and certificates.

Later poets Sathi Das, Bijon Mazumder, Arun Sen, Nazimuddin Shyama and Fauzul Kabir recited at a poetry recitation programme.

'Autism is curable'

Experts at a seminar on 'autism' said the disease is curable if it is identified at the initial stage.

Chittagong Maa Shishu O General Hospital organised the seminar at its conference room on Thursday.

Prof. Helen Mc Naki of Clinical Psychological department of University of New Castle, United Kingdom presented the keynote paper at the seminar with hospital director Nurul Islam Khan in the chair.

Professor Naila Jaman Khan, head of Neurology Department of Dhaka Shishu Hospital, also spoke at the seminar.

The experts emphasised the coordinated efforts by the government and the non-government organisations to address the autism immediately as the number of autistic baby is increasing everyday in the country.

Later Prof. Helen and Prof. Naila visited the Child Development Centre and Neurology (Children) Department at the hospital and discussed with the doctors, psychologists and the therapists about the autistic babies at the hospital.

Publication ceremony of album held

Speakers at a publication ceremony of an album said it is essential to discuss the situation prevailed during the War of Liberation to realise the real spirit of the war.

They were addressing the publication ceremony of a sketch album titled 'Ekattore Jolchhe Jekhona Bangladesh' by artist Enayet Hossain.

Academy of Performing Arts and local daily People's View jointly organised the programme at Chittagong



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam, second from right, gives away a crest to Alhaj Dr Nurul Islam, third from left, at a ceremony organised by 69 Fellowship and Welfare Club at Hotel Agrabad in the port city on March 29. Club President HM Hakim Ali is also seen.

Shipkala Academy on Thursday.

Freedom fighter Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman was the chief discussant at the ceremony with People's View editor

Osman Gani Mazumder in the chair.

Artist Sabih Ul Alam, Faruq-e-Azam Bir Pratik, and Honourary Consul of Japan Nurul Islam were the special

guests at the ceremony.

Artist Enayet said he prepared the album to introduce the new generation with the real picture of 1971.



Students of different schools and colleges from Chittagong perform at a function at MA Aziz Stadium on Wednesday organised by the district administration, marking the Independence Day.

STAR PHOTO



Education Adviser Hossain Jilur Rahman distributes prizes among the students at the annual prize giving ceremony of Ispahani Public School and College (IPSC) in Chittagong on Saturday. On his right is Principal Hasina Zakaria and on his left are Ispahani Group of Industries Managing Director Mirza Salman Ispahani, Chittagong Education Board Chairman Prof. Dr. Mohammad Yusuf and Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) Zafar Alam.

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