

CCC move for a clean city fails

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Plan to keep the port city clean in the daytime is yet to see the success as the garbage continues to pile up in the roadside dumping spots throughout the day.

Unaware of the new time, the city dwellers start disposing of their household garbage as usual in the morning and leave the litters in heaps to give off bad odour, causing serious problem to the passers-by as well as themselves.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) took the initiative on March 1 for cleaning the dustbins and dumping spots from 8:00pm to 4:00am to make it a clean city.

CCC also asked the city dwell-

ers to keep their household wastages on the designated spots or dustbins between 4:00pm and 8:00pm everyday.

But, for lack of proper publicity about the new time to dump garbage went in vain.

There are some 1,243 dustbins and 36 iron containers in 41 wards of the 60square kilometre city, said the CCC sources.

While visiting different city areas in the last few days this correspondent found garbage piling up and giving off bad odour at all the dustbins in and around Chittagong Medical College Hospital, Dewan Bazar, OR Nizam Road, Firingee Bazar, Chawk Bazar, Momin Road,

Station Road, Reazuddin Bazar, Kadamtali, Halishahar, Agrabad Access Road, Choumuhani and Pathantuli Road.

Moshfiqur Rahman Tipu, a schoolteacher, said most of the city dwellers are not aware of the new schedule for dumping the household wastage due to lack of proper campaign by the authorities concerned.

"People are yet to know the new timetable for disposing of the wastes," said Rehana Akter, a resident of Halishahar.

"If there is a proper publicity and a motivation campaign then city dwellers are sure to help the new efforts to keep the city clean during the daytime," said Nasima Parvin, a

housewife of the same area.

CCC acting mayor M Manjur Alam said that they are working hard to make the initiative successful. He said they have given advertisements in the newspapers before introducing the new schedule for disposal of garbage.

He, however, said awareness and cooperation of the city dwellers are needed to make the initiative a success. "We have already achieved some success in this regard," he added.

Sources at the CCC Conservancy Department said for lack of sufficient number of vehicles they hardly can cope with the growing quantity of garbage. The situation aggravates during the summer when leftovers of seasonal fruits make an additional volume of garbage.

CCC needs around 80 dump trucks for removing around 1600 tonnes of garbage the city produces everyday, they said.

CCC Executive Engineer (Maintenance) M Malek said at present CCC has 15 to 20 dumping vehicles of its own and hires 35 trucks to collect and remove the garbage.

Seven of them are used in the daytime for emergency work, Malek said.

Acting mayor said they have sent a proposal to the LGRD ministry for procuring 25 more dumping trucks.

He said CCC at its 31st general meeting in January decides to conduct its garbage disposal work locally. He said they would start it initially at ten wards from the first week of next month.

Water crisis aggravates in port city

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Mainul Haq, a senior executive of a shipping company, requires water supply at least thrice a day to carry his daily household work and other needs of a four-member family at his Agrabad CDA Colony residence.

Instead, he gets water twice a day and sometimes once, and this poor supply for the last few weeks put him in deep trouble and hassle. And he often found at a loss how to cope with the ever-compounding crisis.

Like Mainul, this is the plight of thousands of city dwellers in Chittagong, the second largest city with around 40 lakh people, which lags far behind as far as daily demand of water is needed.

According to sources at Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) here, the daily demand of water in Chittagong is over 500 MLD (Million Litres per Day), which is equivalent to 50 crore litres. But the total water production at Chittagong Wasa installations stands at only 170 MLD (17 crore litres).

Of them, Wasa produces 90 MLD through treatment of water of the river Halda at Mohora Water Treatment Plant while the rest 80MLD comes from 52 deep tubewells at different areas of the city.

Since the onset of summer hot, water woes continues to aggravate day by day. While demand for water is increasing this time around, production of water is equally falling down to dishearten the city dwellers that occur largely due to poor power supply.

"Life becomes miserable these days owing to shortage of water coupled with erratic supply of power and frequent loadshedding," Mainul said adding, "My colony had long been infamous for all basic-cum-civic crises especially shortage of water. It is worsened further for the last few weeks."

Worst more to these tales is the plummeting of water level of the Wasa deep tubewells. For this, many tubewells couldn't pump out water regularly while some of them remain non-functional for weeks together due to technical glitches.



City dwellers in Madarbari area fix a rubber pipe with an underground water line of Wasa to collect water. Women wait in queue for hours for water to be supplied through the pipeline.

"Water crisis nowadays virtually strangles my life so much so that I couldn't sleep in peace at night for the last few weeks," said MA Taher, vice chairman of Tea Traders Association of Bangladesh (TTAB).

Taher is a landlord at Kapasgola, city's another worst-hit area in terms of water supply, and had six pucca and semi-pucca buildings with over 150 tenants. As a landlord he had to ensure regular water supply to them, a task he now find too tough to maintain.

"In daytime supply of Wasa water is very poor while its relatively good in midnight. So,

I used to spend sleepless night to preserve sufficient Wasa water into the reservoirs and tanks so that my tenants get adequate water the following day," he added.

When city people battle with such a situation Bangladesh Army came forward to rid them of the crisis, to some extent.

In assistance with Chittagong Wasa and Chittagong City Corporation, they started supplying pure drinking water to different wards from last week. A control room has also been set up in this purpose and city dwellers have been asked to inform the control room about their requirements.



Garbage piles up on the Commerce College Road during the daytime. The photo was taken on Sunday.

theweekthatwas

German co to develop commuter train service

German Mobility Company has shown keen interest in introducing commuter train service in Chittagong with a view to helping thousands of people commuting the city from outskirts everyday.

Director of the company Gregur Koul Housen expressed this while making a courtesy call on acting mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) M Manjur Alam at his office on Monday.

Koul Housen said the train service would be the best one for around 1.25 lakh people, who come to the city daily for livelihood.

Thanking the director for his proposal Manjur said it would be helpful for thousands of workers in Chittagong Port and EPZ area if a commuter train service is introduced between Bhatiyari and Chittagong EPZ.

He assured of sending the proposal

to the ministry concerned and advised the company to contact Bangladesh Railway authorities.

Aktel-Drishy debate begins

Former Chittagong University (CU) vice-chancellor Dr Alamgir Md Sirajuddin said, "Practice of debate teaches us to honour and tolerate other's opinions and logics."

He was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of debate competition titled 'Aktel-Drishy English Debate Championship' at Theatre Institute Chattagram (TIC) on Saturday.

Drishy, a cultural organisation, is organising the contest in cooperation with Aktel, one of the mobile operators in the country.

Star Campus, a weekly of The Daily Star is the media partner of the competition.

Chittagong College Principal Prof Syed Md Shahidullah, Bureau Chief of New Age Nurul Alam and Drishy adviser Bilkis Rashed were the special guests at the function with Drishy adviser Safia Rahman in the chair.

Speakers said debate help a person to become logical and such logical people would be able to lead the country in future.

Debaters from 12 English medium schools are participating in the competition.

Drishy President Masud Bakul, General Secretary Saif Chowdhury and programme coordinator Syed Rifat Faruq also spoke at the function.

Four debates were held on the first day participated by Cider International School, Bay View School, Sunshine Grammar School and Child Heaven School.

Consultant of Abul Khair Consumer Goods Division Tasneem A Karim, Sunmar Assistant General Manager Selim Bin Saleh and Dr Mahmud A Chowdhury were the moderators at the competitions.

Mimi summer festival begins

A month-long sale festival titled 'Mimi Summer Festival 08' began at Mimi Super Market on Monday with a view to providing better service to customers.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Akbar Ali as the chief guest inaugurated the festival.

News editor of local daily Dainik Azadi Samir Bhattacharya, Chittagong Press Club (CPC) General Secretary Ejaz Eusoofi, CMP Deputy Commissioner (DC) (North) Mostafa Kamal, Regional Sales Manager of Bangla Link Biplob Banerjee were the special guests.

Speakers emphasised maintaining quality of goods and ensuring proper price.

They urged the traders to make the hearts of the customers to make a success their business as well as to enhance the goodwill of the market.



Artistes of Odissi and Tagore Dance Movement perform dance at a function, marking the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at the open stage of DC Hill on Thursday.

Workshop for lawyers held

District and Sessions Judge Majnul Ahsan Khan said lawyers can take brave steps to lead the society in right way.

He urged the young lawyers to prepare themselves them properly at the beginning of their careers.

He was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of a workshop at Lawyers' Auditorium on Monday.

Chittagong District Bar Association organised the workshop with Association President AKM Sirajul Islam Chowdhury in the chair.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge ANM Bashirullah, Association General Secretary Md Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury and Prof Mohiuddin Khalek Mukul addressed among others.

Speakers said the workshop will

help the young lawyers to improve their professional quality and efficiency.

Former president of the association Advocate Ibrahim Hossain Chowdhury Babul, Md Abdul Kuddus, former general secretary Subhash Chandra Lala, advocate Delwar Hossain Chowdhury, Manotosh Barua, Humayun Kabir Rasel, Sheikh Itteker Saimul Chowdhury, Shabhu Prasad Biswas, Kazi Salfuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and Md Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury were present at the ceremony.

Art and craft exhibition held

A daylong art and craft exhibition was held at Bangladesh Elementary School on Saturday.

Director of the school Farah Ahmed inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest.

Farah emphasised the need for

giving the students more scope in practising different extra curricular activities.

She also urged the guardians to cooperate in this regard.

A number of paintings and hand-made motifs made by the students of the schools were displayed at the exhibition.

Partha Pratim Chowdhury and Shelly Murad coordinated exhibition

'Implement Nat'l Women Dev Policy'

Speakers at a workshop urged the government to implement the National Women Development Policy (NWDP) 2008 immediately.

They said it was not clear to people why the government was hesitating over implementation of the policy.

Institute for Environment and

Development (IED), a non-government organisation (NGO), organised the workshop titled 'National Women Development Policy (NWDP): Bangladesh context' on Thursday.

Representatives from different non-government organisations and cultural organisations like Lead, Park, Sangshaptak, Drishy and Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) participated in the workshop.

Speakers said there is some conservative section of people in every country and government should not give importance to their opinions depriving the rights of women community consisting half of the country's population.

Jenifer Fouji Shila presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

Divisional Coordinator of Prashika Shahid Mufti, executive director of UTSA Mostafa Kamal, executive director of Mamata Momena Akhter Noyon and reporter of daily Suprabhat Bangladesh Soumen Dhar addressed the workshop among others.



Visitors admire the paintings at the solo painting exhibition of artist Dilara Begum Jolly at Alliance Française on Friday.