



A sign reading 'Karnaphuli Residential Area' stands by a road that goes through the residential area developed by Chittagong Development Authority on the southern bank of Karnaphuli river about 15 years ago. But all the plots have since been lying vacant due to lack of water supply system.

## CDA move to revitalise two housing projects

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has taken an initiative to revitalise its Silimpur and Karnaphuli housing projects where lack of utility services frustrated the plot holders. Under the move, CDA would make arrangement to develop water supply system and educational and other facilities to help the allottees go for immediate housing there. With the allotment of 1521 plots in Ananya Residential Area on April 21 the CDA has so far allocated 2351 residential plots under three projects, including Kalpakoke R/A phase 1 and 2 since March 22 in 2006, sources said. On the other hand it could allocate 3526 plots in eight other housing projects since 1961. Of the eight housing projects, Silimpur R/A and Karnaphuli R/A lacked in utility and other

services discouraging the allottees from taking possession of their plots. Silimpur Residential Area is the first housing project taken in 1962 to develop plots on 166.18 acres of land amid a panoramic view of Silimpur under Sitakunda Police Station at an estimated cost of Tk 12.64 crore. Under the project CDA developed 1029 plots and a separate flat block on 26.27 acres in 1979 and 1983 respectively. The plot holders said despite having allotments over two decades ago they could not take possession of their plots due to lack of utility and other services. Under the situation CDA has taken an initiative to provide gas supply and develop facilities like education, healthcare and mosque in Silimpur R/A. "Process is on to develop a medical complex, educational institutes and a mosque at the

project site," said CDA Chairman Shah Muhammad Akhteruddin. In this regard he referred to the advertisement published in different dailies on September 24 inviting interested quarters to set up schools and colleges on 2.4 acres of land in the education zone of the residential area. "Besides, we have a plan to develop housing for the low income people on the flat blocks there," he said, adding that CDA paid Tk 2.5 crore for gas lines at Silimpur R/A where water and power were available now. CDA has taken steps to provide water supply at Karnaphuli R/A where 516 plots were developed on about 50 acres of land on the southern bank of the Karnaphuli. Non-availability of ground-water hindered handing over of the plots at Karnaphuli R/A to the allottees although 15 years have elapsed since implementa-

tion of the housing project in 1993. "We are planning to make arrangement for water supply to Karnaphuli R/A from deep tube-well to be installed some one kilometers to the south of the project site," said Akhteruddin while talking to this correspondent. "Opening of the 3rd Karnaphuli Bridge next year would accelerate development of housing on the other bank of the river Karnaphuli. Keeping this in mind we have taken initiative to build educational institute, mosque and market as well as other services at Karnaphuli R/A that has arrangement for gas and power supply," he said. "To ensure utility services at Kalpakoke housing project 2nd phase CDA paid Tk 3.5 crore for power supply, Tk 6.22 crore for gas and Tk 84 lakh for water connection," he added.

## Passengers suffer as bus terminal lacks facilities

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Thousands of passengers in north Chittagong, Khagrachhari and Rangamati have been facing manifold problems as the bus terminal at Oxygen Intersection in the port city lacks necessary facilities.

Passengers, transport owners and workers said the terminal lacks facilities like passenger shed, waiting room, toilet and parking space, causing a chaotic situation everyday. The terminal was shifted from Muradpur area after the 1/11 last year with a view to easing traffic congestion in the city centre and to the Oxygen Intersection, the entry point at the northern outskirts of the city, they said.

Chittagong City Corporation set up the terminal at Muradpur with necessary infrastructures and other facilities to offer the passengers a comfortable and hassle-free journey. The terminal, set up on the footpath in violation of traffic regulation at the busy CDA Avenue. As such, many welcomed the

shifting of the terminal from Muradpur Intersection to Oxygen Intersection. But, the passengers now face a lot of hassles for lack of sheds and other facility at the terminal.

Over 600 buses leave the terminal everyday for different destinations, including Rangamati, Khagrachhari, Matiranga, Hathazari, Fatkhari, Nazirhat, Rauzan, Mohalchhari and Kawkhali. The passengers use the Oxygen Intersection as the Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) does not allow the buses of 22 routes enter the city.

In absence of sheds, passengers suffer during the rain and the sun when they wait for buses or hiring other mode of transports to enter the city centre, which also cost them additional expenses.

Rupal Barua, a resident of Agrabad in the city, said they cannot wait at the terminal for vehicles for lack of passenger shed or waiting room when the use of makeshift toilets is very embarrassing.

He said he is to count Tk 70 to

80 to reach the terminal from his residence as it is at the other end of the city while the bus fare for Rangamati is Tk 75.

Shapla Chakma, who was waiting for bus to go to Khagrachhari at the terminal on Monday, said she is too tired as she stays at the terminal after a six-hour journey from Dhaka.

She said there is no sitting arrangement and good toilet facilities for the female passengers. Besides, lack of any restaurant also increases suffering to the hungry passengers to a great extent, she added.

Chittagong-Khagrachhari Inter-district Bus-Minibus Owners' Association General Secretary Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury said they repeatedly informed it to the administration without any remedy.

He said they are to park their buses on both the sides of the road for lack of parking space, creating gridlock at the Oxygen to Muradpur and Sholshahar Intersections.

Chittagong-Rangamati Motor Malik Samity General Secretary Mohammad Shukkur echoed the

same saying they have sent letters to home ministry, communication ministry, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA), Chittagong and Rangamati district administrations and the CMP Traffic Department.

He said they have yet to get any positive result from the authorities in this regard.

Both Saleh and Shukkur urged the authorities concerned to set up a full-fledge bus terminal for a comfortable journey of the passengers.

The Transport Workers' Union President Abul Khair also came up with the same complaints and said hundreds of their workers, including drivers, helpers and lines-men of all routes, suffer much due to lack of infrastructure.

CDA Executive Engineer (Project) Shahabuddin Khaled said the terminal at the Oxygen Intersection is a temporary one after its shifting from Muradpur. He said they have selected a site near the Oxygen Intersection for a full-fledged bus terminal and would send a proposal to the ministry in two weeks.



Traffic congestion at Oxygen intersection in the port city has become a regular feature as drivers park buses in an unplanned way in the nearby bus terminal and stops on the road to allow passengers to get in.

## the week that was

### World Teachers Day observed

Teachers at a discussion urged the government to take the responsibility of human resources development through nationalising their jobs. They also emphasised the need for introducing a modern, science-oriented and secular education policy for all.

Bangladesh Shikshak Karmachari Oikya Parishad organised the discussion at its office to mark the World Teachers Day on Sunday.

Oikya Parishad leaders Prof Mohammad Abdul Hye, Prof Uttam Chowdhury, Principal Mohammad Jahangir, Sunil Chakrabarty, AKM Shahidullah Manik, Mohammad Aftab

Mian, AHM Syed Hossain and Ranjit Kumar Das spoke at the discussion with Parishad Convenor AKM Abdul Wahab Chowdhury in the chair.

Meanwhile, Shikshak Karmachari Parishad of Wireless Jhatala Colony High School also observed the day and organised a discussion on the occasion. Assistant Headmaster Abul Fazal presided over the discussion.

### EDU orientation held

The orientation programme of the students who passed the admission test of BBA and MBA programmes at East Delta University (EDU) was held on Monday.

EDU Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Syed

Gias Uddin Ahmed was the chief guest at the programme while Ispahani Public School and College Principal Prof Hasina Zakaria, Chittagong City Corporation Chief Education Officer Prof Rawshan Akter Hanif and Researcher Nurul Absar were the special guests.

Speakers said the practical and research-oriented education system of the EDU will play a positive role on the existing education system in the country.

Prof Dr ABM Masud Mahmud and Prof A Quiyum Chowdhury spoke at the programme while USA Central Michigan University Prof and chairman of the EDU advisory committee Dr Debashish Chakrabarty and the university Project Management Director Syed Al Noman, who is conducting a PhD research at London

School of Economics in the UK, joined the programme through video conferencing.

### Call to implement govt decisions on Ctg development

A monthly meeting of the Greater Chittagong Development Movement Committee was held at Bangabandhu Bhaban Office in the port city on Wednesday.

Leaders of the organisation urged the government to take immediate steps to implement the cabinet decisions for development of Chittagong.

They said the general people have been facing serious difficulties to

lead their life due to price hike of essentials.

The Committee Chairman SM Jamal Uddin presided over the meeting moderated by Secretary General Prof Muhammad Mamta Uddin Chowdhury.

The Committee Vice Chairman Sheikh Mozaffar Ahmed, Laila Ibrahim Banu, Mohammad Ullah, Joint Secretary Mohammad Kamal Uddin, Publicity and Publication Secretary Engineer Mohammad Ibrahim and Nurul Islam Siddiqi attended the meeting.

### Eid reunion held

Speakers on Saturday said social commitment, sincerity and deliberate effort can bring success for the

society. They said education causes social changes and accelerates changes through the people's attitude, values, belief and creativity.

They were addressing the 5th installation and Eid reunion of the Former Students' Association of Kadalpur High School at Raozan upazila.

Safi Motors Limited Chairman and Managing Director SM Safi was the chief guest at the function chaired by Finance Ministry Deputy Secretary Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury.

Eminent Scientist Prof Dr Jamal Nazrul Islam, former Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Ziauddin Ahmed Chowdhury Bablu, Social worker Major (Retd) Janshed Hasan, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Director Ferdous Khan

Alamgir and Researcher Dr Suraiya Islam spoke at the function.

The speakers praised the role of the association in expansion of education and urged the former students' association to come forward in this regard.

Later, the guests handed over crests to Mohammad Muslim Uddin Chowdhury, SM Yusuf, Nizam Uddin Ahmed and SM Faruk for their contribution to the association's activities.

### Support for persons with disability

Concern Services for Disabled (CSD), a non-government organisation in Chittagong, distributed money and

cloths among the persons with disability and the distressed people on Monday.

The CSD distributed the money and cloths on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr, Durga Puja and Prabarana Purnima at a function at its office at Fatehabad.

CSD Adviser and Educationist Dr Shipra Dastidar, Super Refinery General Manager and Chemist Pranab Saha Bablu, CSD Vice Presidents Aunur Das Gupta and Nur Uddin Javed, Secretary Biswajit Gupta, Joint Secretary Anjan Kumar Gupta and Hathazari Press Club President Keshob Barua attended the function.

Later, they distributed money, saree, lungi, three-piece, vest, shirt and frock among 162 people.



Members of a business delegation from Myanmar visit a stall at an exhibition of Bangladeshi products organised by Women's Chamber at Hotel Agrabad on October 9.

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Shippers' Council Chairman Mahub Ali hands over a crest to Managing Editor of the Bengali Department of Voice of America Rokeya Halder at a reception ceremony organised by VOA Fan Club at Chittagong Press Club on Friday.

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