

CCC hopes to reduce waterlogging

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) hopes to rid the city of the serious waterlogging up to 90 percent this year with the completion of dredging and widening work of the canals and drains before the upcoming rainy season.

Sources said the work for dredging and widening of 144 canals in the port city started in December last year that would be completed this month.

After the devastating waterlogging of June 11, 2007, CCC began the dredging and widening work after an interval of two years in 2007 that reduced around 70 percent of waterlogging in the city last year.

It started the work at a cost of around Tk 3 crore using sophisticated excavators that helps to do the work within shortest possible time and reduce the cost, said the sources.

The canals are being dredged 12 to 15 feet deep and widened 30 feet while lack of roads alongside the canals are hampering the work to some extent.

The authorities are stockpiling the extracted soil from the canals at distant places so that those cannot be washed away and fall again with rainwater.

The major canals, which were dredged and widened, include Mohesh Khal (canal) near Police Line at Halishahar, Chaktai



Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) excavates the Chaktai canal ahead of rainy season. The photo was taken from Dhunirpul area of Chawkbazar on Monday.

Khal from Chamra Gudam to Bohoddar Hat, Bamun Shahi Khal, Mirza Khal and Dom Khal at Chandgaon, Chashma Khal and Noa Khal at Sholokbahar, Shital Jharna at Panchlaish, Rampur Khal at Rampur, Gahona Chhara at Halishahar, Bahar Khal at Saraipara, Birza Khal at East Sholoshahar, Tripura Khal at West Sholoshahar, Bangshal Para Chhara at North Pathantuli and Nasir Khan Chhara in North Agrabad area, said the sources.

CCC Sholokbahar Ward Councillor Ahmadur

Rahman Siddiqui said Chashma Khal, Mirza Khal and some portion of Noa Khal under his ward were dredged this year and would be able to pass the rainwater through it.

Ahmadur hoped that the waterlogging would surely reduce to a great extent this year.

Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, ward councillor of South Kattali which is waterlogging prone area, said flow of water through Mohesh Khal and Gohona Chhara under his ward would be higher than the previous year as these were

cleaned well this year.

CCC Executive Engineer Abu Saleh said they have formed several teams for instant work at the canals whether they have silted up again after the work.

"Solid wastes dumping by the unaware city dwellers is one of the main causes of waterlogging as the wastes create obstacles to flowing the rainwater," Saleh said, adding that construction of roads on the bank of the canals are needed to run the excavators which perform several times higher than the manual labourers.

He said they need a magistrate to recover or acquire lands to construct roads on the bank of the canals since long and mass awareness is a must to rid of the serious waterlogging.

He hoped that the waterlogging would reduce up to 90 percent this year. But, if the tidal upsurge befall en masse with the heavy rainfall the city dwellers might experience waterlogging as the water from the river would enter the city due to lack of sluice gates in the mouth of the canal.

Criminal database system to curb crime

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Police here are now one step forward in combating crime with newly introduced criminal database system with fingerprint identification.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) introduced the system on April 10 for the first time in the country's police department to enable the law enforcement agency to identify the criminals and other vital information within shortest possible time.

Initially the system has been introduced at Double Mooring, Halishahar and Pahartali police stations, out of 12, while the authorities expect to bring the other police stations under the system gradually after evaluating its effectiveness.

Senior police officials said the system would help police access to the essential information in short time.

Police in the country have long been facing enormous problem in collecting, analysing and retrieving required information about any arrested criminal since the existing traditional criminal record keeping system is cumbersome and time consuming.

In many cases police fail to grill the real culprits even after nabbing them as the latter manage to get release through the loopholes of law by giving wrong information or fake identity to police.

"It is really difficult for a police official to recollect hundreds of incidents he faces during his everyday job but surprisingly police are to depend on it," said Md Ilut Mish, former assistant commissioner (AC) of Double Mooring zone, who initiated the project of preparing the database facing such a problem several times while serving his duty.

Two people were arrested with lethal weapons in connection with snatching station on February 8 in 2008. One of the arrestees told his name as Jasim during the primary interrogation.

But an officer of the Detective Branch recognised him as Sharif when the two were brought to the CMP office for taking photograph before sending them to

the court. Sharif was arrested in 1999.

"We are to collect information about the criminals through sorting out their past records kept in the DB," said Ilut, adding that in most of the cases it is difficult to find out the past information of a criminal and due to lack of required information the criminals manage to get released through bail from the court. Taking advantage of the system, they often commit crimes using fake names and addresses after the release.

Ilut said criminal database is a must to investigate into the criminal incidents and curb crime properly.

To provide a software solution to the matter, Corporate IT Limited, a private firm, came forward and developed and designed the database for the CMP.

Md Zillur Rahman, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the firm, said all the required information of a criminal could be preserved through the software while it would offer easy access to information about a criminal.

Different types of information, including physical identifications like marks, skin, height, forensic and DNA reports about the suspected and arrested criminals, their fingerprints, criminal's previous backgrounds like date of arrest, confinement, release, types of crime and case, activities area as well as their addresses and photographs can now be preserved through the database.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) (North) Banaj Kumar Mazumder said police will be able to identify the culprits most authentically through using the fingerprint identification.

He said availability of vital information of a criminal in a moment would surely expedite the arrest or bringing the criminals under prosecution.

CMP Commissioner Md Maniruzzaman said it is necessary to make the police equipped with modern IT facilities for curbing crime as the criminals nowadays are changing patterns and techniques to commit crime.

He said CMP launched its own website last year and it is now one step ahead in providing service to the city-dwellers through this innovative database.

the week that was

Call to support poor students

Speakers at a function on Thursday urged the affluent section of the society to extend their helping hand for providing educational and health services to the under-privileged children.

They were speaking at a function on the occasion of distributing educational materials among the poor students at Ekhlashur Rahman City Corporation Primary School.

Rotary Club Chittagong Ocean Blue distributed books, khata, pencils and school bags among 200 students of the school with a view to encouraging them for education.

Club President Dr Md Kamrul Hasan said the club would run such programmes to help the distressed children. He said they would take health service programme for the poor students at school level.

Members of the club Joinul Abedin, Captain Motiul Islam, Ruhela Khan, Mainuddin Chowdhury, Nurul Absar, Engineer Misbah-Ur-Rahman and Rezaur Rahman were present at the function.

PR Association executives



A new executive committee of Public Relation Association Chittagong chapter was formed at a meeting on Saturday.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCI) Chief Executive Osman Gani Chowdhury and Deputy Director (Public Relations) of Bangladesh Railway (East Zone)



Dr Anisuzzaman and other guests hold copies of a book titled 'Rachanasamagra' by Chowdhury Zahurul Hoque at a publication ceremony at the conference room of local Bengali The Dainik Azadi on Saturday. Dr Anisuzzaman unveils the cover of the book.

Shafiuddin Ahmed were selected president and general secretary of the 13-member committee.

Poet Yusuf Mohammed spoke about the necessity and background of forming the association.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) Khalilur Rahman, PRO of Bangladesh Tea Board Modhul Kabir Chowdhury and Publicity Officer of Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) Parvez Md Chowdhury also spoke.

Renovate canals, drains before rain

Speakers at a meeting on Thursday urged the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) to renovate all the canals and drains under the Sholokbahar ward immediately to avert serious waterlogging in the incoming rainy season.

They said most of the areas of Sholokbahar, Muradpur and Badurtala are inundated during a short period of rainfall with flow of water from the hills of Nasirabad, causing suffering to the city dwellers as the drains and canals passed through the area have been covered with filths.

Standard pronunciation emphasised

Speakers emphasised the need for usage of standard pronunciation at any oral art form.

They were speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the 24th batch of Proper Pronunciation and Recitation Workshop conducted by the recitation group Proma Abritty Sangathan.

Prof Mahbul Hoque of Chittagong University (CU) Bengali Department inaugurated the workshop.

Deputy Commissioner Farid Uddin Ahmad Chowdhury was the chief guest at the ceremony with Proma President

Rashed Hasan in the chair.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Development) Mohammad Zaker Hossain was the special guest while Proma General Secretary Biswajit Pal made the address of welcome.

Speakers praised Proma for its initiatives for developing pronunciation and recitation skills of the students.

SWF conference held

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) Convener Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan urged the women community to carry on all out struggle to get rid of increasing exploitation, oppression and disparity imposed by the present capitalist society.

He was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural ceremony of two-day national workers' conference of Socialist Woman Forum (SWF) at the Muslim Institute Hall on Friday.

A discussion was also held on 'Equal rights of men and women: Condition of democracy and civilisation' with SWF Convener Rawshan Ara Rusho in the chair.

Veteran Revolutionary Binod Bihari Chowdhury, BSD central committee member Mubnu Haider Chowdhury, Begum Mustari Shafi, Prof Ferdous Ara Alim, Prof Nasima Akhter, SWF Chittagong unit organiser Parvin Akhter and BSD Chittagong city unit Coordinator Manas Nandi spoke at the discussion.

Khalequzzaman said governments at home and abroad are talking about 'change of days' but the oppression on women is increasing day by day across the world at different forms.

He said present capitalist system will never give total freedom of the woman community.

Terming communalism as the obstacle to freeing the women community from exploitation, Binod Bihari urged all to raise voice against communalism and fundamentalism.



A broken manhole on the busy Reazuddin Bazar Road poses danger to commuters and pedestrians, but the authorities appear to remain indifferent. The photo was taken on Tuesday.