

# City schools aggravate gridlock



Traffic jam is a common scenario in front of every school just before and after the school hours. The photo was taken from Jamal Khan area recently.

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ARUN BIKASH DEY

Lack of parking facilities has been causing traffic jam as the vehicles carrying the students are parked in the thoroughfares in front of the reputed schools in the port city.

The students usually come to the schools by their cars or those who have no private car use hired vehicles like taxi cabs, CNG-run autorickshaws and rickshaws.

There occurs serious traffic jam causing hardships for the commuters just before and after school hours as most of the city roads are very narrow.

Sometimes, the gridlock is so immense that students, office-goers, patients and other commuters remain stranded for hours in the areas where the schools are situated.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Traffic Department of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) issued notices to the schools for several times

to provide transport facilities to their students to ease traffic jam.

The schools like Dr Khastagir Govt Girl's High School, Saint Marries School and Chittagong Ideal School and College are located in Jamal Khan area where a huge traffic jam occurs almost everyday, especially before and after school hours.

Khastagir School and Saint Marries School run two shifts. About 2,000 students study in Khastagir School and 2,300 in Saint Marries School without transport facility.

The headmaster of Dr Khastagir Govt Girl's High School, Hasmat Jahan, said they have received two notices, one from the city corporation and another from the CMP (Traffic) to provide transport facility to the students. Jahan said she has written to the Department of Secondary Education to provide a school bus for the students in November last year without any response till date.

Administrative officer of Chittagong Ideal School and College, Aminul Hossain, said they have six school buses for over 2,000 students with capacity of carrying only 150 students. The rest of the students are to use private or public vehicles, he said, adding that they have also got notices from the CCC and the traffic department in this regard.

Bangladesh Women Association (BWA) Girls' High School is the cause of serious traffic jam in the Dampara area that runs two shifts for 4,500 students. Headmistress Anwara Begum said they do not provide transport facility to the students. They proposed to the mayor to construct a foot-over bridge in front of the school so that the students can cross the road safely.

Chittagong Grammar School (CGS) in Chatteshwari area runs two shifts for 1,300 students without any transport facility for the students. Ispahani Public School and College and Bay

View School at Nizam Road and Ispahani Public School are also causing traffic jam.

When asked, Commissioner of CMP Abul Quasem told The Daily Star that law enforcement agencies can not resolve the problem alone. A united effort is needed to develop the civic sense among the citizens as everybody should abide by the traffic rules to make the city free from traffic jam.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP- Traffic), Faruk Ahmed said they have issued notices to the schools either to provide transport facility to the students or to provide parking space for the private vehicles. He said they will sit for further discussion with the school managements soon.

Mayor Manjur Alam said he is concerned about the problem. "We must find out a solution to overcome the problem with combined efforts by the administration, the guardians and the school authorities," he added.

## theweekthatwas

### Chattagram Academy AGM held

The 10th annual general meeting of Chattagram Academy was held on Friday at Lusat Bhaban with its Chairman Dr Anupam Sen in the chair.

Journalist Kazi Jafrul Islam, Principal Rita Datta and writer Anwara Alam were present at the meeting while academy Director General Rashed Rouf presented his annual report.

Dr Anupam in his speech said Chittagong is a land of many renowned persons.

This is our duty to give them due honor, he added. Describing about the programme of academy, he said they have been trying to increase the social values in society to bring change in the society.

### CCC drive continues

A mobile Court of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) during its drive on Monday evicted five illegal shops and fined several shops and restaurants Tk 43,000 on different charges in Agrabad area.

The court led by CCC Magistrate Sheikh Saleh Ahmed conducted the four-hour drive from Baropul to Badamtali. It also fined Tk 2,000 a motor workshop for encroaching on the CCC land illegally.

It also fined Tk 25,000 MFC for storing stale foods in freeze and Tk 10,000 Royal Hotel for keeping foods in unhygienic and dirty environment.

The court fined Sundarban Courier Service for parking its vehicle on the road.

Magistrate Saleh said they are launching the drive in the port city ahead of the World Cup Cricket match scheduled to be held in the port city that will continue.



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### Lawmaker Bir Bahadur inaugurates Gravity Flow System (GFS) project of drinking water at Beyang Para in Royangchhari.

### Research on sex workers

Prof Dr Wulf Rossler at a press conference on Sunday said they are planning a joint research study on floating sex workers in Chittagong with a focus on their mental health.

Earlier, organizers of Rehabilitation Centre for Prostitutes and Rootless Children (PARK) in Chittagong introduced Prof Dr Rossler and Dr Helene Haker of the University of Zurich (Switzerland) to the journalists at the press conference at a restaurant.

Dr Rossler is an internationally renowned researcher in the field of public mental health, said the organisers.

He advised many countries on the implementation of mental health services, they said, adding that he has already been briefed about the situation of mental health services in Bangladesh.

Both the researchers said they are impressed by the work of several NGOs they had opportunity to visit.

### Seminar on higher edn ends

A three-day seminar concluded in the port city on Friday for the students who are interested to go abroad for higher education.

Creative Emigration Council arranged the seminar at its office at Mehediabag.

The students exchanged views with Australian delegates at an open session in the seminar.

CEO of GURKHURS Institute of Technology of Melbourne Chandra Iyanjan and Iyanjan informed the students about the facilities abroad.

Creative Emigration Council CEO Iftekher Alam Bhuiyan, Rajibul Hoque Chowdhury, Md Fahim Uddin, Rajul Hoque Chowdhury spoke at the seminar.

### Plan to beautify port city

The divisional coordination committee at its meeting on Friday decided to beautify the port city ahead of the International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cup Cricket.

The meeting decided to complete the beautification by January 31 with the Divisional Commissioner Shirajul Haq Khan in the chair.

The decisions include rearranging the hanging electric cables, covering one third of the headlights of the vehicles with black colour, removal of billboards and colouring the structure alongside the thoroughfares.

Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong Faiz Ahmed, Port city Cricket League (PCL) Chairman AZM Nasir Uddin, Director of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) Sirajuddin Md Alamgir, Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) of Port Kusum Dewan were present at the meeting.

# Dysfunctional CUCSU breeds chaos

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

The absence of an elected CUCSU is contributing to unhealthy student politics at Chittagong University, the third largest university of the country, with around 20,000 students.

Once Chittagong University Central Students Union (CUCSU) was vibrant with various activities, including various extra-curricular activities for the students, to build future leadership. But it is now dysfunctional.

There is no students' leader at CU as the election process as well as activities of CUCSU remained suspended for at least 20 years.

CUCSU election was held six times after the CU established in 1966. First CUCSU poll was held in 1970 when Mohammad Ibrahim was elected the first vice-president (VP).

Last CUCSU election was held in 1990. Nazim Uddin was elected VP and Azim Uddin General Secretary and Mabubur Rahman Shamim assistant general secretary.

The university authorities suspended CUCSU in 1990 after the Chhatra Oikya leader Farukuzzaman was killed in a bloody clash with Islami Chhatra Shibir. Since then CUCSU remains inoperative and the election is not being held.

Due to lack of interest of university authorities and non-cooperation of student leaders, CUCSU election could not be held in the last 20 years. CUCSU, situated in the middle of central library, arts faculty and science faculty, is totally inactive now.

The general students are facing multi-farious problems for want of active CUCSU. They are being deprived of cultural and extracurricular activities for want of central students union. They cannot put forward their demands to the university authorities as there is no designated student leader.

The absence of an elected CUCSU leads the student organisations to be unaccountable and they try to dominate the campus with muscle power.

General students called on the university authorities to hold CUCSU polls



CUCSU Building of Chittagong University

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

for greater interest of the students. They also urged the political leaders to play an active role for holding the election, shunning partisan or personal interest.

They hope that if CUCSU plays its role, miseries of the general students will be lessened to some extent.

Ershad Hossain, CU unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), said CUCSU could never fulfill demands of general students as its elected leaders were not dedicated to their jobs.

He said CUCSU election is now demand of the time and the university authorities should arrange it, creating conducive atmosphere.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Probal Mojumder said for regaining democratic environment among the student organisations, there is no alter-

native to an active CUCSU. To establish student's rights on the campus, CU authorities should hold CUCSU polls soon, Probal added.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) CU unit Joint Secretary Nesarul Islam Nazmul said CUCSU election should be held as soon as possible as it is the hub of cultural activities of university. Due to an inactive CUCSU, general students are being deprived of cultural activities. CUCSU will get back its lost glory soon if election is held, Nazmul said.

Mostafa Shakerullah, Secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), CU unit, said a lively CUCSU can fulfill general students' demand. But the university authority is very much indifferent in this regard. The university authority doesn't want to hold CUCSU election showing the excuse of non-cooperation of student organisations at CU.

The left-leaning organisations Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Chhatra Federation, Chhatra Union and Chhatra Moitry pressed their demand for holding CUCSU election on various occasions.

Prof Dr M Sekander Chowdhury, newly elected general secretary of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA), also emphasised holding CUCSU election immediately.

Acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alaiddin said they eagerly want a vibrant CUCSU. If there is an active students union, it will be very much helpful for arranging cultural activities, he added.

For this, students, irrespective of party affiliation should come forward and create a favourable environment, Prof Alaiddin said.



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The cover of a manhole of a busy road is lying broken at Gate No 2 in the port city for long, increasing the risk of accidents at night.