

# Chittagong adorns to host Cricket World Cup

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The port city is being refurbished to welcome Cricket World Cup 2011. Like other cricket loving places of the world, the city is waiting for the cricket extravaganza.

Through the Cricket World Cup, Bangladesh is introducing herself to the world as an organiser at an international level. As a host of two matches, the government and other related organisations took preparations to refurbish the city as a game village.

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) are doing the beautification and facelift works. CCC is implementing the project worth Tk 86 crore. Of the amount, it will provide Tk 17 crore from its own fund.

Under this project, CCC is making three artificial fountains, three icons of Royal Bengal Tiger, steel-statue of Bangladesh team players and many billboards to welcome the players and guests.

The fountains are being set up at GEC, Wasa and Tigerpass intersections and the icons of Royal Bengal Tiger in front of Premier University Wasa campus and two others in the foothill of Tigerpass road.

Besides, CCC will erect a statue of Bangladesh team players in front of custom office, a model of five Sampan at the estuary of Karnaphuli just at entrance of Shah Amanat International Airport. Another model of sampans will be set up at Jamal Khan intersection.

To uphold the culture and heritage of Bangladesh, CCC also has planned



Beautification of the port city of Chittagong is going on prior to ICC Cricket World Cup 2011.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

to set up a mural at Tigerpass intersection.

The city corporation will also decorate the roadsides of the port city. Under this project, the road from

Sagorika, to GEC intersection will be colourfully painted. It requested residents and private and public offices to paint their houses and boundary walls.

But, most of the building owners did not paint their houses till January 31. CCC Deputy Secretary Md Shamsuddhoa told The Daily Star that they deployed many teams to advance

the programme. He, in this regard, said mayor visited different government offices to request them for painting.

He hoped that they would be able to finish the work before the

tournament begins.

He said the roads to be used by the players and ICC officials at time of world cup will be recarpeted. Of these roads, carpeting of Jakir Hossain Road is complete and carpeting of Agrabad Excess Road, Port Connecting Road and Nimtoli area in front of customs house are going on.

Most of the roads and dividers will be replenished with paints. They will repair the old dividers in some places and the dividers will have gardens.

The city corporation has set up automatic traffic signalling system costing Tk 1 crore to bring a radical change in traffic system.

To uphold the event, CCC will hoist 1,500 national flags of 14 participating countries in the main city streets and the roads will be decorated with festoons.

To clean the city, CCC collected nine dump trucks from abroad and would engage around 400 temporary workers in this regard. Chief (acting) Sewerage Officer Shafiqul Islam told the Daily Star that they are ready to keep the city neat and clean.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) oversees the Sagarika road renovation work of Tk 7.39 crore. The road is the main entrance to Jahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium.

About the present condition of the road, Project Director Mahfuzur Rahman said construction of the road will be complete within February 5.

Though CDA hoped to complete the road within February 15, sources said it will be difficult to complete the beautification in a month.

Mahfuzur said they hope to complete the works by the first week of March.

## Laldighi: A witness to many historical events

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

Some places, grounds, writings are witnesses to the history. The Laldighi Maidan is one such, observing many historical and socio-political and cultural course of events in the port city.

It is situated on the southern side of Laldighi.

In British era, a building was constructed named Lal Ghar on the southern part of the Laldighi. During the period, from Laldighi to present Muslim High School, there was a hill named Marcott' Saheber Pahar (Mr Marcott's hill) and on the hilltop a building was constructed named Lal Kuthi. Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters is now situated there.

As the plain ground fell between the two buildings, it was named Laldighi Maidan (Laldighi ground) by locals.

Laldighi premise has been the central point of all political and cultural activities of the city for the last 150 years.

The plain land from CMP headquarters hill to Parir Pahar (present court hill) was known as 'Municipal Maidan' during the British era.

In late nineteenth century, a road

was constructed north to south, dividing the place into two portions. Then the east side was transformed into a playground. Muslim High School has been using it as the playground which is now known as Laldighi premises.

Mammoth gatherings were held at the ground during the British period on various political issues.

At the time of Khilafat movement and Swadeshi movement, it was the key place of all political rallies.

Laldighi Maidan is also a witness to many events of the historical Language Movement. When Mohhammad Ali Jinnah announced that 'Urdu and Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan' instantly a rally was held on the Laldighi premises. To make the rally a success, poet Mahbub ul Alam Chowdhury, Shahid Saber and Gopal Biswas took a tom-tom on the road. The activists of All Pakistan Muslim Chhatra league and Muslim League attacked them and foiled the rally.

On February 21, 1952 police fired on protesters in Dhaka. As the news of the martyrdoms of the language heroes reached Chittagong at 2:30pm, the people led by Jahur Ahmed Chowdhury and the cultural activists led by

educationist Abul Fazal brought out processions from Waziullah Institute. All processions led to Laldighi Maidan and a huge rally was held there.

The organisers called hartal and a public meeting at Laldighi on February 22.

At that time Kurshid Mahal and adjoining petrol pump were part of the ground.

First Shaheed Minar in Chittagong was constructed at that place on February 23, 1952 that lasted for only three days as Pakistani police destroyed it.

From February 23 to 29, five huge rallies were held at Laldighi Maidan. The rallies resolved to carry forward the Language Movement and boycott classes until the demands were fulfilled.

The then firebrand national leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman announced the historical six points on the Laldighi premises on February amid thunderous applause.

The ground also observed many historical events such as movements against killers and collaborators, anti-autocracy movement and mass uprising of 1990.



Laldighi Maidan

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## the week that was

### 'Save Kutubdia'

Council for Preservation of Coastal Areas, Islands and Environment (CPCIE), an environmental organisation, in the port city on Thursday demanded construction of a permanent coastal dam to save the island Kutubdia.

Protesting corruption in constructing the dam, the organisation said although present government approved a budget of Tk 39 crore to construct a permanent dam at Kutubdia but the construction works could not continue due to a greedy influential syndicate.

Referring to the impact of global warming and the rise of sea level on the island, they urged the government to take proper step against the syndicate to save the island.

They made the call at a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) in the port city.

Advocate Sheikh Morshed Ahmed, convener of the organisation, read out a written paper at the press conference.

The organisers said Kutubdia protects the South Chittagong and Cox's Bazar's coastal areas from cyclone and tidal waves. But seawater enters the island every year and wash away fish farms, damage houses and cause huge financial loss.

Mohammad Kayes, Abdul Hamid, Eshan Majumder, EA Miraj were present at the press conference.

### Esayat Sammelan ends

Too much greed leads men to the unethical, unsocial and anti-Islamic activities, said Hazrat Sheikh Syeed Gausul Azam Maddajiluhul Ali, Morshed of Kagatia Alia Gausul Azam Darbar Sharif.

Ali was speaking as the chief guest in Esayat Sammelan (conference) at Laldighi Maidan in the port city organised by Muniria Jubo Tabligue Committee Bangladesh on Sunday with Engineer Mosharraf Hossain MP in the chair.

He said only Torikat (education) can motivate man to the creative activities dispelling bad instinct of human mind.

Former mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, The Dainik Inkilab Editor AMM Bahauddin and Vice Chancellor of Presidency University Dr Muhammad Harunur Rashid attended as the special guests in the conference.

### 'Wahidul memorial speech' held

Speakers at a discussion on Sunday said through sensibility to country, Wahidul Haque all time submerged himself in

literature, culture, education, humanity, journalism, politics, games, philosophy, cinema and science.

He inspired all for making universal friendship through be a wholehearted Bangalee, they said.

Jatiya Rabindra Sangeet Sanmilan Parishad organised the 3rd Wahidul memorial speech at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) to pay homage to the maestro.

Dr Mahabubul Haque read out an article titled 'Politics in literature' written by Prof Ali Anwar with Prof Dr Anupom Sen in the chair.

Later, renowned artistes Mihir Nandi, Mita Hoque, Partha Tanvir Naved and singers participated in the Rabindra Sangeet Sanmilan Parishad performed Tagore songs on the occasion.

Theatre Arts (BITA) titled "Human right commission to spread human right education: Our expectation" at Shilpakala Academy seminar hall on the occasion of BITA activists conference 2010.

BITA Executive Director Shishir Datta inaugurated the programme.

National Human right Commission Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman spoke as the chief guest with BITA Executive Committee's President Abul Mansur in the chair.

Former Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin, The Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen, Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Abu Sufian spoke among others.

### Zagreeti's role lauded

In observance of 43rd years of 'Zagreeti', a



Samaj Samiksha Sangha forms a human chain in front of Chittagong Press Club (CPC) on Sunday demanding ban on film 'Meherjaan.'

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### Rehab fair concludes

Fifth three-day Rehab Fair 2011 ended in the port city on Saturday.

ABM Fazlay Karim chowdhury was the chief guest in the closing session with acting president of Rehab Sultana Shaheda Islam in chair.

Chittagong Engineers Institute Chairman Delwar Hossain was the special guest in the session. Rehab General Secretary Murad Iqbal Chowdhury spoke at the session while chairman of Rehab Chittagong chapter Major (Retd) Jamshed Hasan made the speech of welcome. Fazlay Karim in his speech said government will minimise the problem of gas and electricity within two years which is a good sign for the developers. The developers now can easily invest in this sector without any fear.

### BITA conference held

Speakers here said without giving financial, social and civic rights to the citizens human right will not be protected only through political activities.

They were speaking at a roundtable organised by Bangladesh Institute of

socio-cultural and sports organisation, it arranged an installation ceremony on Thursday at Hathazari upazila in Chittagong.

Vice-chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) AAMS Arefin Siddique attended as the chief guest with newly elected president of Zagreeti Mohammad Nasir Uddin in the chair.

Prof Arefin said, "We should introduce our children to the culture along side institutional education. Because a combination between education and culture is a must for being a patriotic citizen."

He said our young generation should come forward to extra-curricular activities not remaining confined to textbooks.

Chittagong University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alaiddin, main speaker at the programme, said Zagreeti should extend its helping hands to the talented needy students of the society so that they can continue their studies and become enlightened citizens.

Upazila Chairman Mohammad Ismail, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Hathazari, Sheikh Farid Ahmed and Former Principal of Hathazari College Farid Ahmed also spoke at the programme.