

Waste mars panoramic beauty of CU

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

The picturesque Chittagong University (CU) is losing its beauty due to badly managed disposal of waste on the campus.

The solid waste is increasing as number of people including students, teachers, officials and employees increasing on the university campus.

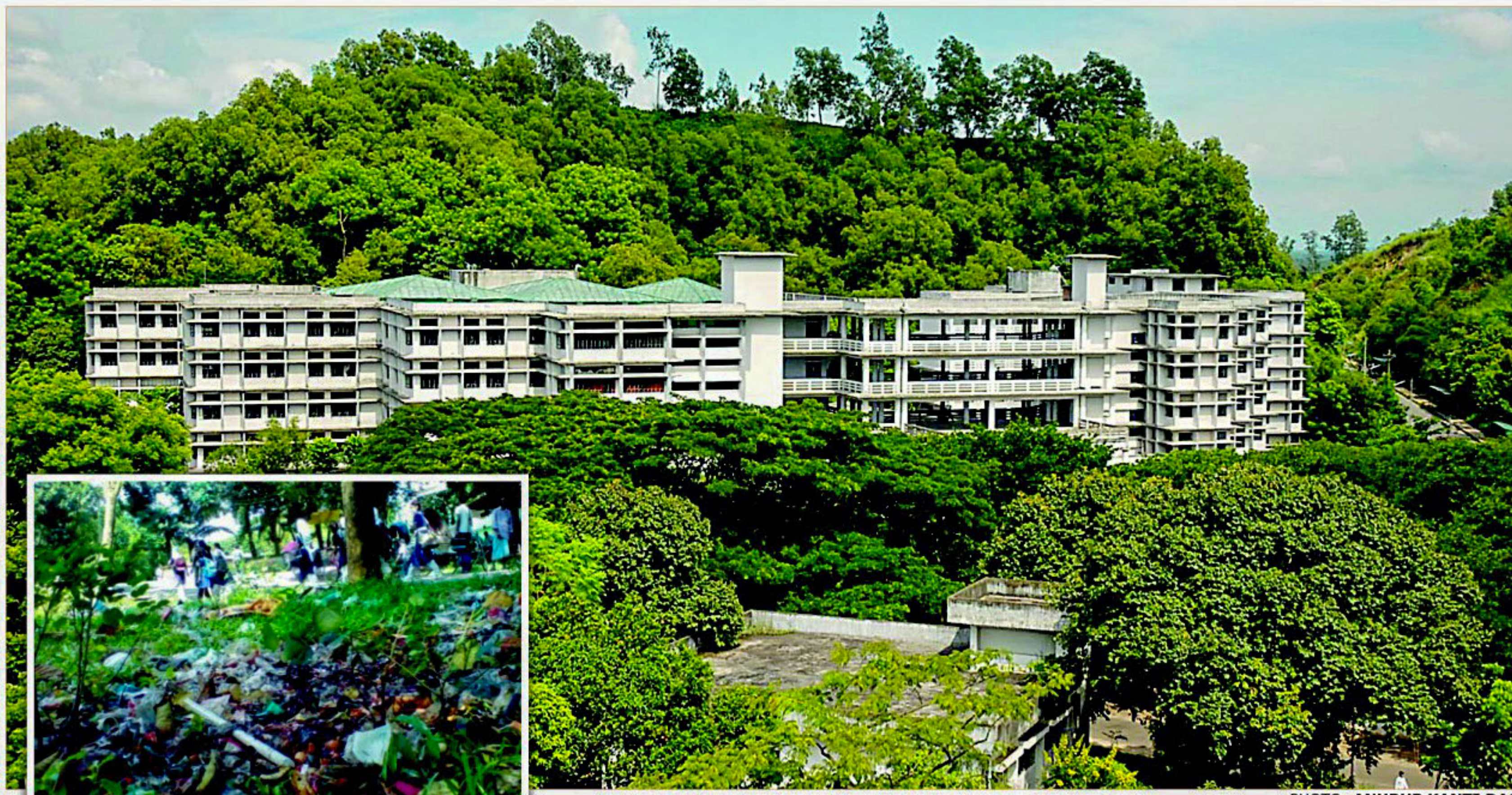
To accommodate them, many residences and structures have been built on the campus since its inception in 1966.

Wastes are being dumped in the open spaces polluting the environment as well as causing damage to the scenic beauty of the university, said Prof Dr Mohammad Kamal Hossain of the Institute. These wastes create infestation of flies, mosquitoes, various harmful virus and bacteria.

Dr Kamal said the university authorities should divide the campus for waste disposal and supply adequate dustbins. Perishable waste may turn into the compost and imperishable waste such as papers, plastic, glass, ceramic and metals can be recycled, he added.

Dr Alok Pal, chairman of the Geography and Environmental Studies, said due to scattered disposal of organic as well as inorganic wastes, panoramic beauty of campus is corroding. Dr Pal said there is no designated dumping point on the campus.

Everybody disposes waste here and there inconsiderately destroying the



Chittagong University. Students walk past solid waste, inset, at 2 No Gate on the university campus.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

beauty of the campus, he added.

He urged the university authorities to set up specific dumping points on the campus and monitor it.

Dr Pal emphasised the need for change in attitude of all to stop the indiscriminate disposal of waste on the campus.

There are 12 colonies, six staff quar-

ters, three residential areas, and ten students' dormitories. Around 10,000 people including students, teachers, officials and employees reside on the campus, sources said.

These large number of people litter on the campus daily threatening the environment.

A research conducted by Md Auhidur Rahman, a student of Institute

of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, found that the university produces nearly 1509kgs waste a day. Of which, 33 percent is produced in colonies, 24 percent in residential halls, 13 percent in various hotels and restaurants, 11 percent in residential areas, seven percent in various faculties and two percent in various offices.

There are over 22,000 students under six faculties of the university, one college and three schools. They produce 78.71kg waste a day on an average and most of them are papers, books and printed matters.

Around 600 people live in the three residential areas and produce 162.22kg waste a day. Of which, 71 percent comes from vegetables and food. A total of 363.97kgs of waste is produced at 10 residential halls -- 87 percent vegetables and foods. Six staff quarters and 12 colonies produce 644kgs of waste daily while around 125 shops and restaurants 197.50kgs, the research added.

Auhid said environment of the campus would be threatened shortly if the university authorities do not take proper steps immediately for proper waste management.

Acting Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mohammad Alauddin said if the people do not become cautious about the disposal of waste, there is nothing the university authorities can do in this regard.

Everybody should be careful about the disposal of waste, he added.

Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line

Work yet to start

ARUN BIKASH DEY

The railway has started its process to acquire 1,412 acres of land to build 128km rail track from Dohazari in Chittagong to Teknaf in Cox's Bazar for Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line.

Sources in Bangladesh Railway (BR) said at present, there is railway link up to Dohazari.

But the peoples expressed their frustration over the slow pace of progress in the work. They formed human chain and submitted memorandum to the prime minister demanding initiatives to start the project.

Non-government organisations Sohail Foundation, Nongar, Pulse Bangladesh, Expawrul, Shabdayan Abritti Academy and Coast Trust formed a human chain in front of the municipality office in Cox's Bazar town on May 29.

Speakers at the programme demanded of the government to take immediate steps for implementing the project.

The Railway (East zone) General Manager Yusuf Ali Mridha said they have land up to Dohazari in Chittagong, but the railway has no land from Dahazari to Cox's Bazar. He said the railway will have to acquire 1,412 acres of land from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar.

The land acquisition process has already started, he said, adding that they need over Tk 1,400 crore for land acquisition but they have only Tk 10 crore for the project.

Of the money, Tk 9.75 crore has been allocated to the deputy commissioners (DC) of Chittagong as the first installment, said Project Director Engineer Khairul Anam, hoping to complete the project by 2013. But he refused to answer any question about the slow process of land acquisition.

Mozammel Haque, planning officer of BR (east zone), said the project would be completed on schedule though it is still at primary stage.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated construction work of the

rail line at Jhlongjha on April 3 to connect Cox's Bazar with other areas of the country.

The Tk 1,852 crore project will be completed by December 31 in 2013. Of the fund, the government will provide Tk 670 crore while Tk 1,182 crore will come as project aid, said sources at the Bangladesh Railway.

Under the project, there will be two meter gauge lines -- one 100km line will connect Dohazari with Cox's Bazar via Ramu and the other 28km line will connect Ramu with Gundum in Myanmar, said Khairul.

The rail line will include four bridges on the rivers of Sangu, Matamuhuri, Shankha and Bankkhali.

The stations on the railway line will be at Satkania, Dulahazra, Chokoria, Eidgaon, Ramu, Cox's Bazar, Ukhia and Gundum.

The Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line is a step to connect the country with the Southeast Asian countries through Trans-Asian Railway (TAR), the railway sources said.



Dohazari railway station in Chittagong from where the construction work of Dohazari-Cox's Bazar rail line will start.

PHOTO: STAR

The government has a plan to connect the country's railway with 81,000km network stretching from Europe to Asia.

Sources said the first survey for the

railway line from Dohazari to Cox's Bazar was conducted in 1890 during the British colonial regime. But due to the first and second World War the construction work could not be

started. The first feasibility study on the rail line was conducted in 2001 during the previous Awami League regime.

theweekthatwas

'Agar' cultivation stressed

Speakers at workshop on Thursday said Agar (Aquilaria malaccensis Lamk) can exceed the readymade garments (RMG) in terms of export earning if it is properly cultivated.

They were speaking at the inaugural function of a workshop on "production and use of Agar" organised by Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI), Chittagong at its auditorium in the port city.

Dr Md Nasir Uddin, joint secretary at the Ministry of Environment and Forest, was present as the chief guest at the inaugural programme with BFRI Director Dr Mokhlesur Rahman in the chair.

Nasir said there is a huge demand of Agar in the world market as it is being used in pharmaceuticals and cosmetics industries largely.

"If we can cultivate Agar scientifically and increase its quality as well as the quantity we can earn huge foreign currency exporting it," he said, adding that even it may exceed the export income of RMG.

Dr Nasir said there is no alternative to research in increasing the quality and quantity of Agar. He said private sectors, especially corporate houses, should come forward to help research.

"It is not possible for only the govern-

ment to patronise the researchers," he said, adding that in the developed countries private sectors support the researchers.

Dr Mahiuddin, professor of the department of Forestry and Environment Science in Chittagong University (CU), said Bangladesh was the first country to export Agar in the world market.

'Acquire knowledge properly'

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, former advisor of caretaker government, on Monday called upon the students to enrich themselves acquiring knowledge properly.

He was speaking at a reception as the chief guest for the successful students in the SSC examination-2011 of the Christian Missionary Schools.

The Chittagong Catholic Diocese organised the programme at the auditorium of St Scholastica's Girls' High School in the port city with Moses M Costa, CSC, the Bishop of Chittagong Diocese, in the chair.

Bishop M Costa in his speech said education is imparted in the missionary schools to all no matter what religion or culture the learners belong to.

Mentioning the missionary school's motherly care and affection to the students, he urged all to leave what is unjust and acquire the truth.

Writer Fahmida Amin, Bishop Lawrence



Former adviser to a caretaker government Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman gives away certificate to a successful student in the SSC examination from the Christian missionary school.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Subrata Howladar, Pradip Placid Gomes, principal of St Placid's High School, Mary Palma, headmistress of St Scholastica's High School, Br Sylvester Mridha, Sr. Mary Shanta, Sr Gabriel were present on the occasion. The programme ended with the certificates distribution to the students.

World Blood Donors' Day observed

Different organisations organised various programmes in the port city marking the World Blood Donors' Day-2011.

Sandhani, Chittagong Medical College

(CMC) unit, organised a discussion to mark the day at Chittagong Press Club (CPC) on Thursday.

Ripan Kanti Das, secretary of Sandhani CMC unit, in a written statement at the press conference said the unit started its activities in 1982 and collected 1,32,397 bags of blood in 1,895 programmes since its journey.

He said demand for blood in the country is five lakh bags a year and Sandhani can supply only 50,000 bags.

Ripan said the demand for blood in Chittagong is 60,000 bags a year and CMC unit supplies 6,5000 bags.

Sandhani organises programmes to

encourage the people to donate blood, he said, adding that a person over 18 years with 47 kg weight can donate blood every four months till 57 years.

CMC unit President Shuvojit Bhattacharjee, Habibullah Tomal, Tareq Imam, Taukir Ahmed, Nowsin Farzana and Umme Haney were present at the press conference.

On the other hand Swadhin, a voluntary organisation of diploma students, brought out a procession marking the day.

They also organised a rally in front of the CPC with Dr Shahadat Hossain as the chief guest.

Women entrepreneurs lauded

Speakers at a workshop on Saturday said the role of Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) has created a milestone involving the women entrepreneurs in mainstream of business.

They said the women entrepreneurs here also proved that it is possible to go forward through developing own capability.

They were speaking at a workshop styled 'Practical solution to SME management' jointly organised by International Finance Corporation (IFC), SEBA Limited and CWCCI at Hotel Agrabad in the city.

Lawmaker Begum Chemon Ara Taiab was the chief guest at the programme with FBCCI Director Monwara Hakim Ali in the chair.

IFC Operation Adviser Lutful Kabir, principal of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Training Institute Md Abdul Oyadud, senior business consultant of Seba Ltd Fakhru Nahar and Business Consultant Abil Bin Amin were the resource person at the workshop. Fifty five women entrepreneurs took part at the workshop.

Call to formulate women commission

Speakers at a discussion on Thursday underscored the need for formulating a women commission so that all kinds of discrimination against the women are eliminated from the society.

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) organised the discussion titled "Necessity of forming women commission" at Chittagong Club.

BNWLA Deputy Director Advocate Salma Ali presided over the meeting while Chittagong District Bar Association President Saleh Uddin Siddiqui spoke as the chief guest.

Chittagong District Bar Association's General Secretary (GS) Advocate Mahbul Alam, former general secretary Advocate Fayejullah, Deputy Commissioner Amena Begum of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) and BNWLA divisional chief Advocate Oyahida Idrich also spoke at the meeting.