

# BCL defies ban on CU shuttle train politics

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN

Compartment-based groups in Chittagong University (CU) shuttle trains resurfaced defying the ban on their activities.

The university authorities at an emergency meeting of its syndicate on May 1 this year banned the boggy-based activities following the clashes between the BCL factions on April 29 and 30 that forced suspension of all the classes and examinations for 11 days.

Subsequently, the authorities also erased names of boggy-based groups from the compartments of the shuttle train, university sources said.

They said no sooner had seven months gone, the previous scenario has returned to the shuttle train. The boggy-based groups inscribed their names in the compartments and started activities again, the sources added.

The students, seeking anonymity, said the clash between BCL factions may erupt at any time again in the shuttle trains as the groups become active.

They urged the university authorities to look into the matter seriously to make the train journey safe and delightful for the general students.

The Chittagong University launched the shuttle train in 1980 in cooperation with the Bangladesh Railway to carry students to and from the port city. The one-hour journey has gradually turned

into the centre of amusement for the students, sources said.

Seven trains shuttle between the university and the port city everyday, carrying the students. The students in general rejoice all the way about 22 kilometers by singing songs and telling jokes, they added.

The students of different departments formed diverse compartment-based groups to make their journey enjoyable with the participation of meritorious ones, sources said.

But, the general students gradually start to keep themselves away from these groups after the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) took control of the compartments since the mid-90s. Commotion, chaos, disorder and clashes became the common phenomena in the trains as soon as the BCL men took control of these groups, sources said.

Many sub-groups among the BCL men emerged after the BCL established its boggy-based politics.

Campus sources said there are around 20 boggy-based groups led by the BCL men in different names such as Ureka, Cockpit, Apitaf, Dost, Choose Friends with Care, Akakar, Fatafati, Sixty Nine, Always, Sampan and Varsity Xpress.

They inscribed names of their groups inside and outside the compartments to occupy them.

Scuffles and altercations over trifling matters over establishing supremacy



Graffiti by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League on a compartment of a Chittagong University shuttle train.

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by the BCL factions have become a common scenario among the boggy-based groups, making the journey by trains unsafe for the students, general students said.

The university unit BCL General Secretary M A Khaled Chowdhury, however, denied the involvement of their activists in the groups, saying that they are the cultural groups that only

support BCL.

Admitting resurfacing of the boggy-based groups, Proctor Dr Mohammad Nasim Hasan said the ban is still in force and necessary steps will be

taken against the violators.

At least 35 incidents of clashes took place among the boggy-based groups, leaving about 70 BCL activists injured in the last three years.

# Collegiate School to celebrate 175 years

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

The 175th founding anniversary of Chittagong Collegiate School, one of the most famous educational institutions in the country, will be celebrated in the port city tomorrow.

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, former student of the school, will inaugurate the three-day celebration. Chittagong Collegiate, an organisation of former students, organised the gala celebration.

Different programmes including colourful procession, discussion, the family reunion of former students, reminiscing memories, chitchat and cultural functions will be held during the three-day festival.

Now situated on the Ice Factory Road, the school started its journey in 1836 as a pioneer English medium school in a brick building at a hillock in the southern area of Parade Ground and eastern side of Madrsa Hill where Haji Mohammad Mohsin College stands. It was the first Entrance



Chittagong Collegiate School

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School in greater Chittagong in the early twentieth century.

The school went under the Divisional Inspector of Schools in 1909 and the existing building was

constructed in 1925. The educational activities of the school were suspended for four years but resumed in 1941.

According to East Pakistan

Gazetteer, Chittagong Collegiate School, popularly known as Zilla School, incorporated compulsory military education into its curriculum in the 60s. Industrial arts, engineering,

applied electricity and drawing were also introduced in the school syllabus, the Gazetteer said.

The institution was shifted to Markot Sahib Hill and established on Ice Factory Road in 1886. The school started its morning shift in 1963.

There are currently over 2,000 students in the school with 21 classrooms, a library, two science labs, a computer lab, three halls and an auditorium.

Though the school took a few decades to achieve its current reputation, its eminence for standard education is always mentioned-worthy. It has achieved the country's best school award several times. This lyceum has given birth to a good number of renowned scholars, educationists, scientists, doctors, journalists, politicians, economists, industrialists, athletes and high officials.

Poet Nabinchandra Sen and Dr Annadacharan Khastagir, who played a significant role in spreading English education in Chittagong, were the

alumni of this school. Moreover, Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, Dr Abdullah Al Moti Sarfuddin, Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Novelist Humayun Ahmed, Dr Md Zafar Iqbal, Abul Hayat, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, Dr Mustafa Nurul Islam, footballer Ashish Vadra, cricketer Minhajul Abedin Nannu and grand-master Niaz Morshed are the renowned students of the institution.

Acting Headmistress Triptikana De said she is proud to participate in celebrating the event. "This school is one of the pioneer schools of the country and I am really lucky that the 175th founding anniversary would be celebrated in my tenure," she added.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Abul Hasnat Md Belal, press secretary of the festival committee, said, "A school is going to celebrate its 175 years. It is quite a rare event."

He urged the government and the school authority to preserve the building and other things related to the history of the school.

## theweekthatwas

### Print exhibition of Somnath held

A 5-day long solo print exhibition of Somnath Hore, a noted artist of the sub-continent, concluded at Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University (CU) in the port city on Thursday.

Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka and Institute of Fine Arts of Chittagong University (CU) jointly organised the exhibition in association with Akar Prakar of Kolkata and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre.

The exhibition titled 'wounds' depicted the tales of agonies and wounds of the marginalised people of the sub-continent affected by war, famine and exploitation.

A total of 47 works on different mediums like etchings, intaglios and lithographs were displayed at the exhibition.

Veteran revolutionary of anti-British movement Binodh Bihari Chowdhury inaugurated the exhibition as the chief guest.

### Call to allocate sufficient budget for sports

Youth and Sports Ministry will allocate sufficient money for promoting sports among the people with disabilities next year, said Samsul Haque Chowdhury, member of the parliamentary standing committee on youth and sports ministry.

He urged the deputy commissioner to keep a sufficient budget for running the tournaments and other activities related to sports for the people with disabilities in the annual planning, says a press release.

He said this while he was addressing as the chief guest the inaugural session of 7th Chittagong Divisional Sports

Competition of the people with disabilities at M A Aziz Stadium in the port city on Monday.

Chittagong Society for The Disabled and Jatiya Protibondhi Krira Samity jointly organised the competition.

### Body to solve house rent problem

Local representatives, tenants mostly workers and landlords held a meeting on Thursday following repeated labour unrest at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) over increasing of house rent.

A 91-member committee was formed on Wednesday headed by local Awami League lawmaker MA Latif to solve the problem.

The committee in a three-hour meeting at auditorium of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) decided to form ten sub-committees comprising representatives of workers, land lords and ward councillors of respective areas.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam, Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Abul Kashem, BGMEA First Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury, CCCI President Murshed Murad Ibrahim, CCC councillors and representatives of workers and owners were present at the meeting with MA Latif in the chair.

### Use of tech for sustainable dev stressed

University Grand Commission (UGC) Chairman Dr A K Azad Chowdhury here on Saturday said, "It is the time to go ahead with the power of technology and inven-

tion and no sustainable development is possible without the best use of this sector".

He was addressing as the chief guest a programme organised by Chittagong University of Engineering & Technology (Cuet).

Azad said a combination of science, engineering and technology could lead the country to a higher position with the outstanding performance of the students and the Cuet must be one of the biggest participants on those contributions to the country.

Director of Cuet Student Welfare Committee Prof Dr Tazul Islam presided

over the function. Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shyamal Kanti Biswas spoke at the programme as the special guest.

### Domestic violence a violation of human rights

Speakers at a seminar here on Thursday said domestic violence against women not only violates human dignity and personal integrity but it is also a gross violation of human rights.

The economic empowerment of the women needs to be addressed and sup-

portive services for the victims and their families should be available to establish a society free from domestic violence against women, they said.

Plan Bangladesh, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), organised the programme marking the International Human Rights Day at the Chittagong Press Club in the port city.

Prof Dr Abdullah Al Faruque presented the key-note paper at the seminar.

The seminar stressed the need for creating awareness to change gender biased attitudes and widely publishing the acts related to the issue to make the people aware of the provisions of the laws.

### Readers' internet corner launched

An internet corner for readers was launched at Chittagong Divisional Government Public Library in the port city on Thursday.

Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Md Sirajul Haque Khan inaugurated the corner, set up under a project of private telecom operator Robi.

Robi Vice-President Segufta Yasmin, Robi Chittagong General Manager Kamruzzaman and Senior Librarian of Chittagong Divisional Public Library Mohammad Habibur Rahman were present at that time.

### Wangala festival celebrated

The members of Garo community celebrated 'Wangala', a traditional festival of harvesting, on the premises of Church of Patharghata in the port city on Friday.

On the occasion, they responded to the call of 'Nakma', chief.

Around 1,000 Garo people, most of them are from Mymensingh now working in the city, gathered on the Saint Placid School premises wearing colourful traditional dresses with different kinds of foods and gifts.

Six priests received the gifts on behalf of Christ Bishop Moses M Costa.

Bishop Costa of Patharghata Cathedral (Catholic Church) was the chief guest at the programme. Adrian Ritchel, 'nakma' was the special guest.

Since 2002, The people of Garo community living in the port city gather on the occasion on December 16 every year.



Members of the Garo community celebrate Wangala, a traditional festival of harvest, in the port city on December 16. Bishop Moses M Costa receives offerings of new crops and foods from the people of the community on the occasion on the Patharghata Catholic Church premises.

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