



Sale of winter clothes heats up

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Shahnaj Akter, a resident of the port city's Muradpur area, found it difficult to browse through warm clothes to pick the best match for her son as Zahur Hawkers' Market was packed with buyers.

She said prices at the market seemed a bit high this season.

"Still, people from middle-income groups like us come here as the market is known as a spot for low-priced, yet quality products," she told this correspondent.

Like Shahnaj, warm clothes buyers are pouring onto the market, as a cold wave has taken over the port city.

Traders at the market said they have various quality products and prices vary depending on that.

Ahmed Newaj, proprietor of Newaj Store, said they are selling jackets ranging from Tk 1,200 to Tk 4,500 and sweaters from Tk 600 to Tk 1,800.

Meanwhile, people from low and middle-income groups were seen rushing to the makeshift shops on the footpaths in different thoroughfares in Chawkbazar, Sholashahar Gate No 2, New Market, Anderkilla and Laldighi areas.

Abdul Kader, a hawker in New Market area, said he invested Tk 1.50 lakh for this winter. "I have bought 15 bundles of warm clothes at Tk 10,000 each," he said, adding that each bundle contains some eight items, including wool cap, scarf, gloves and ear jammer.

Kader said he made a profit of Tk 3,000 after selling each bundle. "I sell a sweater ranging from Tk 200 and Tk 500 based on the quality."

Meanwhile, shopping malls, including Bipani Bitan, Sanmar Ocean City, Mimi Super Market, Afmi Plaza, Aktaruzzaman Centre, Amin Centre, Chittagong Shopping Complex, Reaz Uddin Bazar and Tamakumundi Lane, are also abuzz with people buying winter clothes.



PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Children finally get Laldighi Maidan back

To commemorate the declaration of six-point demand by Bangabandhu, a stage named "Chhoy Dafa Mancha" has been built on the ground. There are also 18 terracotta artworks depicting historic moments the country witnessed. There are also many portraits of historical figures, and a temporary Shaheed Minar.

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Chattogram's historic Laldighi Maidan, which had remained closed due to renovation for almost three years, finally welcomed children back on Monday.

Visiting the place on the day, this correspondent saw children of nearby schools playing cricket on the field.

Syed Ajmail Haque, a seventh-grader, told The Daily Star that they were happy for finally getting to play on their favourite field again.



February 2020 and were completed in 2021, said officials.

But the place was not opened for the public up until now, and the authorities couldn't clarify reasons behind the delay.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her recent visit to Chattogram on December 4, inaugurated the newly renovated Laldighi Maidan.

Yesterday, Deputy Minister for Education Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury formally declared the field open to the public.

He said students can play in this field from now on, while cultural organisations and political parties can organise programmes with permission from relevant authorities.

He said the Chattogram City Corporation would ensure cleanliness, while a committee comprising officials of Chattogram District Administration and Government Muslim High School would manage the field.

Abul Bashar Mohammad Fakhruzzaman, deputy commissioner of Chattogram, said a

standard operation procedure (SOP) has been formulated for the ground's management. "Cultural organisations and political parties would be given permission to organise programmes here following the SOP."

Rajib Nandi, a retired schoolteacher, came to visit the ground yesterday. He said the theme of the renovation project was laudable, while the seating arrangements and walkway would benefit city dwellers.

The project planned to showcase the country's most historic moments, including the anti-British movement, Language Movement, six-point demand movement, mass uprising of 1969, and the Liberation War.

To commemorate the declaration of six-point demand by Bangabandhu, a stage named "Chhoy Dafa Mancha" has been built on the ground.

There are also 18 terracotta artworks depicting historic moments the country witnessed. There are also many portraits of historical figures, and a temporary Shaheed Minar.

Although the ground is known as Laldighi Maidan, the field officially belongs to Government Muslim High School, Chattogram. The school's students and children of Laldighi and adjacent areas use this ground for recreation.

Besides, 36 benches have been set up on the ground along with a 368 metre walkway.

Also, two eye-catching gates have been built. As the field would be encircled by a boundary wall, people will have to enter through the gates.



"We used to play here every day after school. But the field was closed for the last three years."

Echoing the same, Robayet Hasan, a sixth-grader, said due to lack of a playground, he couldn't play outdoor games near his residence. "As the field is now open, I can play here every day from now on."

The Education Engineering Department (EED) implemented a Tk 4-crore project to renovate the ground. Works started in



The man who drew Chattogram's map in 1818

Story of Scottish general John Cheape

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN

Today, one can find their desired location easily with the help of Google Maps. If a person wants to tour a foreign country or even wants to take a stroll at the Amzaon forest to say for example, they are unlikely to get lost, thanks to the blessings of technology.

But a Scottish general known in the history books as John Cheape, perfectly drew the entire map of Chattogram, the port city of Bangladesh which is surrounded by hills and ocean, some 200 years ago without any help of modern technologies that we see today.

Before John, one Major James Rennell had sketched the map of the city in 1786, but historians consider John's map to give the best view of Chattogram.

John Cheape (1792-1875) was a civil engineer by profession. According to "Uponibesh Chattogram" (Colonisation of Chittagong) written by Haroon Rashid, John Cheape started his career at East India Company in 1809. He retired from the force as a general in 1866.

Drawing the map of Chattogram is a highlight of his carrier. It is not clear when he came to Chattogram, but many say John fought a battle in Anglo-Burmese war in 1825.

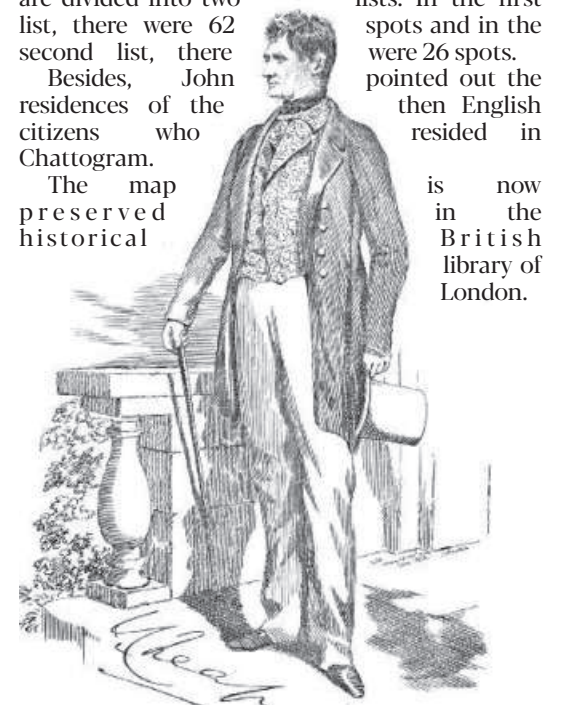
The map was drawn in 1818, which meant he was staying in Chattogram from the early days of his work life. Without having a profound knowledge about the city's every road, establishments, lanes, canals, river, port, hospitals, it is not possible to sketch the bird's eye view of Chattogram in such a perfect manner.

His pencil-sketch map had everything -- hills, forests, people's residences and religious establishments.

The places which were mentioned in the map are divided into two lists. In the first list, there were 62 spots and in the second list, there were 26 spots.

Besides, John pointed out the residences of the citizens who then English resided in Chattogram.

The map is now preserved in the historical British library of London.



CDA to build tourist zone at Karnaphuli bank

SIFAYET ULLAH

The Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) is going to set up a tourist zone in a 5km area of Karnaphuli riverbank in the Bakalia area of the port city, with an aim to develop Chattogram as a tourist city.

The work will be carried out under a project, titled "Construction of Road on the bank of River Karnaphuli from Kalurghat bridge to Chaktai Khal (canal)".

Kazi Hasan Bin Shams, chief engineer of the CDA, told The Daily Star that under the project, a walkway will be constructed over an area of 5km from Shah Amanat Bridge to Bolirhat. They will also construct a tourist-friendly restaurant with entertainment facilities for children.

Funds from this project will be spent on constructing tourist spots. The tourist spot will be open to all, he added.

If the tourist zone is constructed, the socio-economic conditions of the area will change," said Faruk Ahmed, a local. Mentionable, Chattogram and its



neighbouring upazilas have a variety of features that draw tourists, including a picturesque sea view, hills, a mangrove forest, waterfalls, and lakes. However, the government agencies' lack of interest left most tourist destinations' potential went unrealised.

Md Shahin Islam Khan, former chief town planner of CDA, said the authorities need to make sure that the river remains clean.

The port city will transform into a true tourist destination if eco-friendly tourism destinations are set up here,

the city planner added.

Habibur Rahman, a tourism entrepreneur and president of the Chattogram Residential Hotel Owners Association, said if the government is unable to develop the tourist attractions, they should be given to private or joint venture projects for development.

According to data from CDA, the project was approved in the meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council on April 25, 2017.

The construction works of the project was inaugurated in June 2019 with the construction of a sluice gate at the estuary of Chaktai canal.

Under the project, the CDA is constructing an 8.55 kilometre road and embankment and 12 regulators at the canal mouth along the Karnaphuli to save some areas from waterlogging and reduce traffic congestion in the city.

However, the scheduled time for the project's completion had been extended for one more year, from June 2023 to June 2024.