Historic Darul Adalat on verge of collapse

Bureaucratic tangle stalls conservation of Ctg's first court building

ARUN BIKASH DEY, *Chattogram*

Perched atop a hill at Government Hazi Muhammad Mohsin College, the historic "Darul Adalat" -- Chattogram's first court building -- has remained abandoned for 24 years, with conservation efforts stalled amid bureaucratic inertia.

The colonial-era structure is now on the verge of collapse.

Despite The Daily Star publishing a number of reports since 2013 on the need to preserve the building, conservation efforts have remained stuck in a bureaucratic tangle involving multiple government agencies.

The college authorities declared the two-storey building risky in 2002 and suspended all activities there. Once home to the college library and the office of the Bangladesh National Cadet Corps, it has since remained abandoned.

Built on a 0.775-acre site with three-foot-wide walls of brick, lime and mortar, Darul Adalat features a fusion of Mughal and Western architectural styles. It has 16 rooms and two towers on the northeast and northwest corners, accessible by spiralling staircases.



The building was declared risky in 2002.

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**



During a recent visit, the building's entrance was found sealed off, while wild vegetation covered parts of its facade, where plaster had decayed and domes were crumbling.

"It is a site of immense historical importance. Visitors often come to see it but have to return disappointed as it is sealed off. Its sorry state is heartbreaking," said Ali Akbar, a student of the college.

Local folklore suggests the structure was built by Portuguese pirates and had a secret tunnel connecting it to the Karnaphuli river. Historians, however, dismissed the claims.

In his book "Bandar Shahar Chattogram (Port City of Chattogram)", historian Abdul Haque Chowdhury wrote that British authorities constructed the building to establish their court shortly after taking over Chattogram in 1761. "The two domes on the building's towers were used by British watchmen to watch movement of ships in Karnaphuli river and in the sea," he wrote.

The building served as a court until the British rulers shifted it to Lalkuthi (Red Building) beside Laldighi in Chattogram around 1857, he added.

Officials from the Department of Archaeology (DoA) first visited the building in 2013 to recommend that it be declared a protected heritage site. Its official status, however, remains unchanged, with the conservation process dragging on for more than a decade now.

Prof Benu Ara Begum, principal of the college, said, "DoA officials have visited several times, but I don't know why its conservation remains elusive."

Dr Md Ataur Rahman, a former regional director of the DoA who visited the site in 2019, said, "Conservation of the site is vital because it was the first colonial-era court in Chattogram. I submitted my recommendation years ago; I do not know its fate after my transfer."

Contacted, Dr Nahid Sultana, DoA regional director for Chattogram and Sylhet, said she had forwarded a report to the department's director general. "As far as I know, the DG sent a letter to the Chattogram District Administration requesting the land schedule. Once received, a formal recommendation will be sent to the Ministry of Cultural Affairs," she said.

However, Chattogram Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate Zahidul Islam Miah said they had not received any such letter.

"I will look into the matter," he said.

CUET shutdown enters 12th day

Students demand former VC's reinstatement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

The academic and administrative deadlock at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) continued for the 12th consecutive day yesterday as students continued their "complete shutdown", demanding the reinstatement of Professor Dr Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem as vice-chancellor.

Agitating students have announced a fresh round of protests, following what they described as "misleading and propagandist remarks" by the newly appointed vice-chancellor on various media platforms.



FILE PHOTO

"The newly appointed VC has been spreading baseless propaganda against the students online. This has fueled our agitation further," said Ahnaf Shahriar Arnab, a student of the mechanical engineering department.

"Our movement will continue until Professor Dr Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem is reinstated and a proper resolution to the ongoing crisis at CUET is achieved," he said.

Students also plan a sit-in and have appealed to the highest policymaking levels of the government to intervene, resolve the impasse and restore a normal academic environment on campus under Professor Sayem's leadership.

They have warned that the newly appointed VC will not be allowed to enter the campus, reiterating that the strike and shutdown will continue until their demands are formally met.

The turmoil began following an administrative reshuffle on September 21, when the Ministry of Education issued a gazette notification removing Professor Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem, who had taken charge as CUET VC on July 27, just 56 days into his tenure. Professor Sheikh Shariful Alam of the Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering department at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology was appointed in his place.

The move prompted student protests, leading to a campus-wide shutdown from September 22. Although the newly appointed VC joined office virtually, students have resisted his physical entry to the campus.

Meanwhile, CUET teachers, officials and employees have expressed solidarity with the student movement by joining work stoppages, leaving regular classes, examinations and administrative activities suspended.

No formal administrative or government settlement has been announced yet, leaving thousands of students facing uncertainty over their academic activities.

Sit-in at Ctg port over NCT lease Oct 5

Bandar Rokkha Committee announces programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Chattogram*

The Chattogram Bandar Rokkha Committee yesterday demanded cancellation of the proposed 15-year concession agreement with an international operator to operate and maintain the New Mooring Container Terminal (NCT) and its overflow container yard.

At a press conference, Fazlul Kabir Mintu, member secretary of the committee, said they had learnt that the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, at its October 1 meeting, gave in-principle approval to the draft agreement.

He said a comprehensive and transparent comparative assessment should be made public before the NCT, one of the country's major container terminals, is handed over under a long-term concession.

The assessment should cover the terminal's potential revenue under state management, scope for capacity enhancement, use of modern technology and automation, operational efficiency, and the potential financial benefits to the state from the proposed concession, Mintu said.

He also called for a review of the 22-year agreement signed with Saudi Arabia-based Red Sea Gateway Terminal in December 2023 to operate the Patenga Container Terminal before entering into any new long-term concession agreement.



Schoolchildren accompanied by their parents and guardians cross the busy Dhaka-Chattogram Highway in front of RR Textile Mills Government Primary School, despite a footbridge nearby. The practice exposes both the children and adults to the risk of road accidents on the busy highway. The photo was taken recently in Barabkunda, Sitakunda.

PHOTO: **RAJIB RAIHAN**

Ctg custom begins disposal of 151 tonnes of hazardous chemicals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Chattogram Custom House has begun disposing of 151 tonnes of expired and hazardous chemicals that had remained in nine containers at Chattogram port for years.

Vehicles carrying the chemicals left the port under police escort yesterday morning.



The chemicals, including acid and acid-based substances, had been lying at the port since 2003 and subsequent years, posing risks to port security and the environment and contributing to container congestion.

Md Rasel Ahmed, assistant commissioner of Chattogram Custom House, said the chemicals had not been cleared after import and had remained in the port yard for an extended period. The consignment includes 25.55 tonnes of sulphuric acid, 500kg of nitric acid, 92.54 tonnes of methanol and 32.30 tonnes of thinner, he added.

Rasel said the chemicals were being disposed of through Wata Chemicals Ltd in Narayanganj, following recommendations from the Bangladesh National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention and an initiative by the destruction committee.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Disaster Management
Disaster Management Bhaban
92-93, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka 1212
www.ddm.gov.bd

Memo No. 51.01.0000.000.016.07.0014.26.567 Date: 01.10.2026

e-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of the package mentioned below which is available in the tender notice on the e-GP System Portal. This is an online tender and only tenders submitted through the National e-GP Portal will be accepted. No offline or hard copies will be accepted. For details, please visit www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Packages No	Places of dry and other food supply	e-Gp Published Date and Time	Closing/ Opening Date and Time
01.	1337984	DDM-Relief-DF-2026-2027-Dhaka 1	CSD Relief Godown Tejgaon, Dhaka	04.10.2026 12.00 hours	26.10.2026 12.00 hours
02	1337985	DDM-Relief-DF-2026-2027-Dhaka 2	CSD Relief Godown Tejgaon, Dhaka		
03	1337986	DDM-Relief-DF-2026-2027-Chattogram	Regional Relief Godown, Chattogram		
04	1337987	DDM-Relief-DF-2026-2027-Khulna 1	Regional Relief Godown, Khulna		
05	1337988	DDM-Relief-DF-2026-2027-Khulna 2	Regional Relief Godown, Khulna		

01-10-2026

Md. Rasel Sabrin)
(Joint Secretary)
Director (Relief)
&
Procuring Entity
Phone: 02-222260386 E-mail: director.relief@gmail.com

GD-2308

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Director
Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.

Ref: SOMCH/MSR Surgical/Furniture computers/e-GpTender/2026/1093 Date: 03/10/2026

e-GP Tender Notice (2026-27)

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP Portal and no offline/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-tender, please register on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd). For more details, please contract support desk contract numbers.
e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Director Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet for the Procurement of;

Tender/ Proposal Id	Name of Goods/ Package name	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Opening Date & Time
1342191	Procurement of Surgical (Suture) Items	18 Oct 2026 16.00	19 Oct 2026 12.30	19 Oct 2026 12.30
1342204	Procurement of Surgical (Nebulizer machine, Oxygen Mask & Others) Items	18 Oct 2026 16.00	19 Oct 2026 12.30	19 Oct 2026 12.30
1343210	Procurement of MSR Furniture Items	18 Oct 2026 16.00	19 Oct 2026 12.30	19 Oct 2026 12.30
1343824	Procurement of computer consumable items	18 Oct 2026 16.00	19 Oct 2026 12.30	19 Oct 2026 12.30
1342129	Procurement of Computer accessories	18 Oct 2026 16.00	19 Oct 2026 12.30	19 Oct 2026 12.30

e-Tender details can be downloaded on e-GP system portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for pursuer.
e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list accept .
e-Tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

01.10.2026

Director Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, Sylhet.
E-mail: magomch@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

GD-2308