

# Ctg Collegiate School still on its blazing track

Ferdous Ara · Chittagong

THE historic Chittagong Collegiate School in the port city still keeps aflame the torch of knowledge, which was kindled more than 180 years ago, spreading light far and wide.

Established in 1836, the school still maintains its excellence as a seat of education.

If anyone ventures into its compound on the Ice Factory Road near the Chittagong Railway Station, he or she will find it abuzz with hundreds of students in white shirt and pants.

Some are leaving as the morning shift ends at 11:50am and some entering as the day shift starts at 12:10pm.

Every parent who has a boy wants to have him admitted in this school as the teachers here know how to nourish the latent talents, said Shafqat Rahman, father of an eight-grade student.

He said that the spacious school premises were another factor that attracted the

students most.

In 1835, the General Committee of Public Inter-

action submitted a proposal to Lord William Bentinck, seeking to establish an in-

stitution which would teach English literature and science in major cities such as

Dhaka, Patna, Chittagong and many more.

In the middle of 1835, the government passed a proposal which led to the establishment of Dhaka Collegiate School on July 15 in Bengal, as the first government school.

This project became very popular among the then British Raj and the authorities wanted to take this project outside of Dhaka. After one year, they reached the port city of Chittagong. In 1836, with the same goal of teaching science and humanities, the Chittagong Collegiate School was established.

The school headmaster, Debabrata Das, told New Age that Chittagong Collegiate School and College was first established as Chittagong Government School and was also the first English medium school in the city.

Back then, classes were held at a government brick building constructed during the early years of the British period.

Though there were no official records on how many

students were in the first batch, it is said that the school started its first year with around a hundred students. Most of the students from the first batch were sons of Zamindars and Portuguese Christians.

After fifty years, the school was relocated to its current location at Ice Factory Road, North Nalapara, he said.

Debabrata said that in 2008 the government renamed it as Chittagong Collegiate School and College. The school achieved country's Best School Award in 1992.

He added that in December 2016, the school completed and celebrated 180 years. After all these years, the school remains the same, being the oldest in Chittagong.

Khurshid Alia, who has been teaching in this school for 26 years, said that this school has been continuously doing brilliant result.

'We ensure students' participation in co-curricular activities like BNCC, Scout,

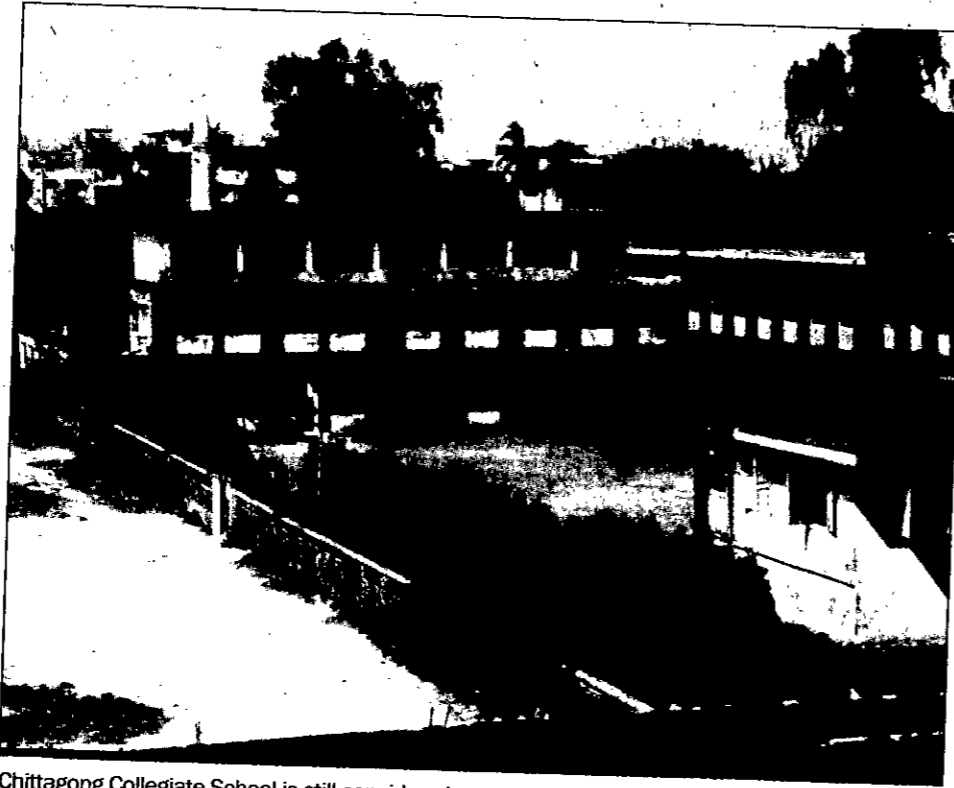
Red Crescent society, Debate competition, games and sports, science club, cultural club, math club and Bishwa Sahitya Kendra activities,' he said.

At present in collegiate school, there are 54 teachers and three assistant head masters.

Many legendary figures studied in this school including Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, poet Nabin Chandra Sen, Professor Muhammad Ibrahim, famous writers Humayun Ahmed, Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, actor Abul Hayat and many more.

Reminiscing about his school days, famous Bangladeshi actor and writer Abul Hayat said that he felt proud to have been a student of the renowned school, which had a history of 180 years.

Abul Hayat, who is also a civil engineer, said that the institution had the potential to compete with any school in the world and hoped that Chittagong Collegiate School would continue to mould brilliant minds.



Chittagong Collegiate School is still considered one of the prestigious schools in the port city. This photograph was taken recently.

— New Age photo

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