

M Phil courses at DU face serious session jam

CITY CORRESPONDENT

Students of M.Phil courses at the Dhaka University are facing serious session jam.

Although the course is designed to be completed in two years, many students require five to six years to finish them, sources said.

Sometimes a student even prolongs the course up to 10 years, said a source citing an instance.

Every year, more than 400 students take admissions to M.Phil courses but a very few come out successfully. A large number of them fail to submit thesis for years.

As per course procedure, a student is expected to place his course work on completion of

More than 2000 students took admissions in the last five years but only around 250 could complete the courses. Of them, about 60 finished course this year, 55 in June 2002, 65 in June 2001, 63 in June 2000 and only 11 in June 1999

first year and submit thesis by the end of final (second) year. A Professor or an Associate Professor supervises the research work of up to five students.

But failure to submit thesis by most of students every year is increasing the pressure on the teachers making it difficult to properly supervise the research work, said a teacher.

According to sources, more than 2000 students took admissions in the last five years but only around 250 could complete the courses. Of them, about 60 finished course this year, 55 in June 2002, 65 in June 2001, 63 in June 2000 and only 11 in June 1999.

Others extend the time at their will taking advantage of the

provision of the course, said a teacher.

Students can take readmission or extend time from their professors, he said, adding that most of the second year students prolong their courses, sometimes for 5 to 6 years or so.

Some M.Phil students talking to this correspondent said that

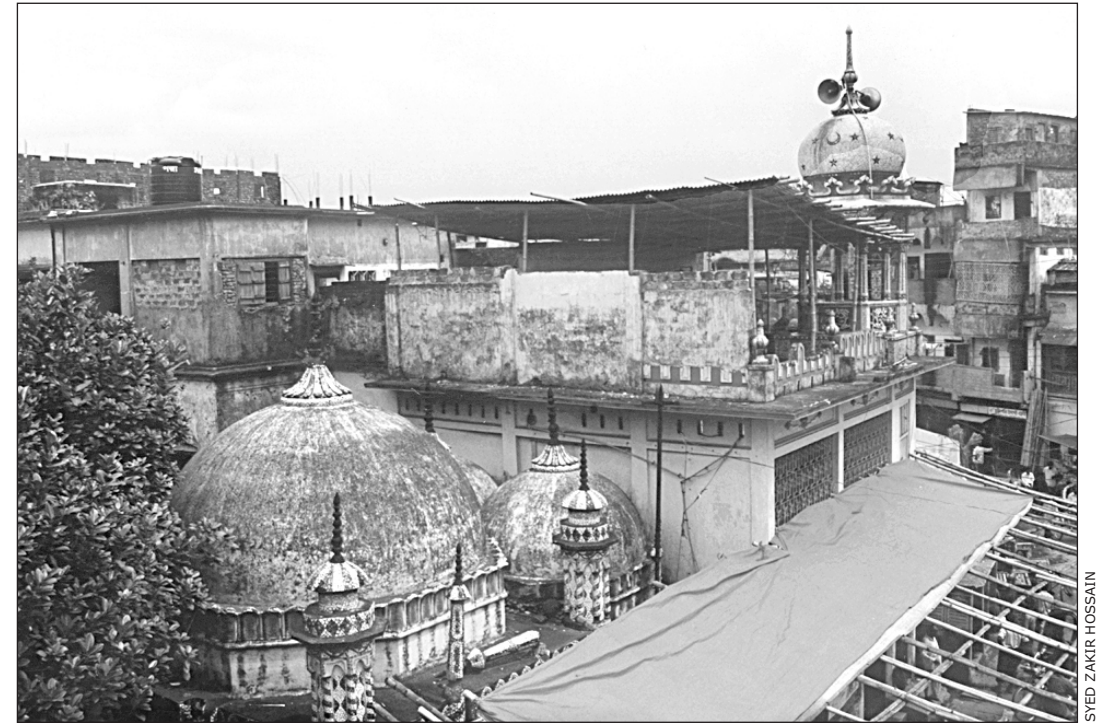
two years not sufficient to submit a thesis and urged the university authorities to make it a three-year course.

But a teacher in the Science Faculty differed with the students' views.

"Most of the students are not serious about their studies. A lot of them treat it as a part-time affair as they have already entered a job and many students take admissions just to occupy a room in a hall," he observed.

A student alleged that the stipend for M.Phil courses was cut by Tk 500 last year from an already insufficient sum of Tk 8,300. The university libraries also can not provide books necessary for the course, he said.

FOLLOW-UP



STAFF ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Demolition threat still hangs over Malitola Mosque

CITY CORRESPONDENT

The threat of demolition still hangs over the century old Haji Mainuddin mosque at Malitola in the old part of the city despite appeals of saving it as a heritage site from the civil society and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco).

After visiting the mosque in October, Wolfgang Vollmann, the Country Representative of the Unesco, requested the archaeology department to find out what measures could be taken for conservation of the mosque built in 1896.

But the site officer of the archaeology department Abu Bakar Siddique and Engineer Munir submitted their preliminary report mentioning that the mosque did not meet certain criteria of protection as the area of the original mosque has been extended while the original structure was kept intact.

"The Mughal architects introduced this type of architecture. We have lost the technique of brick lime structure and it would be unwise to destroy this precious example of Mughal expertise," said architect Rafiq Azam, an expert on urban affairs while visiting the mosque.

"It is surprising to get such a decision from the archaeological department as many archaeological heritage has been extended with the original structure remaining untouched," said Azam.

"In no way it is fair to demolish an old piece of archaeology because the 'Philistine' crowd is not sensible enough to preserve its sophistication or artistic grandeur. The conservation of this mosque of antiquity, particularly its three magnificent

domes essential for keeping alive the valuable tradition and legacy of our rich past for the posterity," wrote Tasmia Nuzhat Khan, one of the grand daughters of Haji Mainuddin in a letter to the Daily Star.

The family members of Haji Mainuddin who inherited the status of mutwalli or caretaker of the mosque have been in charge of maintaining it for generations.

The present generation of Haji Mainuddin's family, who have inherited the mosque, were reportedly trying to arrange funds to construct a five-storied mosque on top of the structure which will certainly mean demolishing its three majestic domes.

Tasmia also wrote that the demands of the worshippers and the pressure created by the local community leaders forced the family of Haji Mainuddin to agree rather reluctantly, to renovate it.

But family members of Tasmia think that the responsibility to accommodate an ever-increasing number of worshippers should not rest with the family alone.

"We have asked the Archaeology department about the maintenance of the old domes but they have informed that even if they protect the site they will not be able to provide maintenance cost for the preservation of the mosque," said Md. Nasiruddin, the present mutwalli.

"There are other mosques in the area but none with the same aesthetic splendour. The worshippers can easily go to those mosques which are within half a kilometre from the Haji Mainuddin mosque," said a local resident.

In recent years the Malitola area has become a bustling

centre of trade, and is particularly known for being home to a variety of wholesale markets. At prayer time, the merchants and the shop owners and local residents all rush to the Haji Mainuddin mosque which is unable to accommodate such a large number of people.

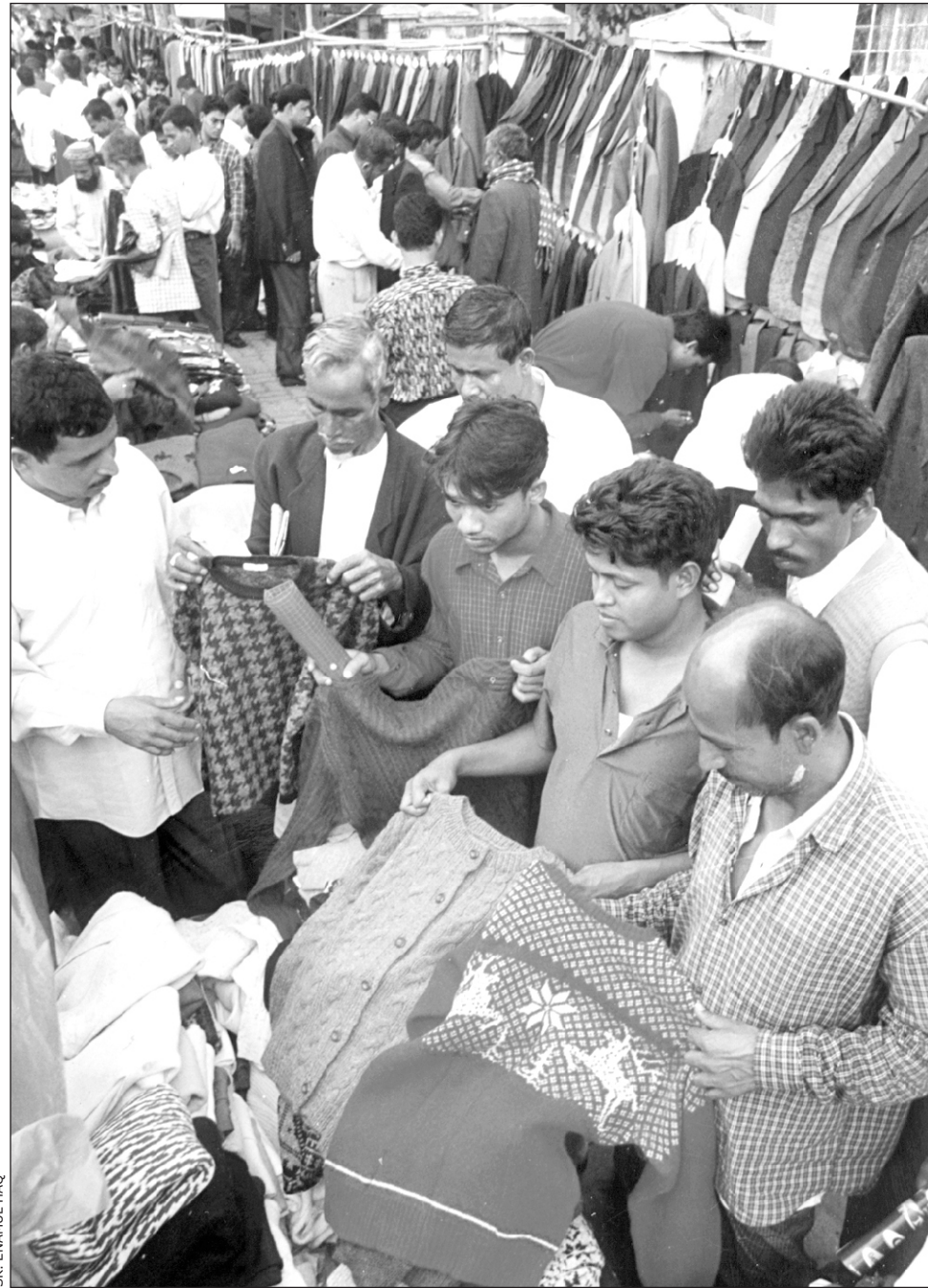
The family of Haji Mainuddin also feared that if the government didn't come forward to save the historical masterpiece, they won't be able to stave off the pressure of the local people and worshippers who want more accommodation in the mosque.

"We have received the preliminary report and I am looking into the matter so that the mosque could be protected," said Dewan Delwar Hossain, the director of archaeology department.

Rafiq Azam suggested that the archaeology department declares the mosque as a protected site so that no one is able to demolish anything without the permission of the department. A committee could be formed with representation of archaeologists, architects, journalists, the caretaker family and other people who would like to contribute to the conservation of the heritage site.

The mosque is named after Haji Maunuddin, a textile merchant, who had inherited the status of its first mutwalli. His father Zangu Bepary and uncle Jan Mohammad had settled by the bank of Dholaal Khal (now a part of English road) in 1890. The mosque was built in 1896 on one and a half katha of land primarily to cater for their family needs. Back then, Malitola was a predominantly a Hindu area and there were only two Muslim families including theirs.

Mercury down, prices up



SK. ENAMUL HAQ

Some people are opting to buy winter attire beforehand as the meteorological forecast indicated a cold wave sweeping the city in the coming days.

SABRINA KARIM MURSHED

The crowd is gradually increasing at places where winter-wear is sold.

The drop in the mercury level has pushed the prices of most warm clothes.

Some people in the capital are opting to buy winter attire beforehand as the meteorological forecast indicated a cold wave sweeping the city in the coming days.

Varieties of items are beginning to pile up at different parts of the city. People from every sphere of the society are being offered winter clothes suited to their taste and means.

Attractive winter attire, though fairly expensive, is available at reputed shopping complexes like Rapa Plaza, Mouchak Market, New Market, Eastern Plaza, Rifles Square and Meena Bazar. Those with a bulkier pocket are exploring a wider collection to buy desired sweaters, cardigans, pullovers or jackets. The average price stretches from Tk 300 to Tk 2000.

Some fashion houses also added winter items to their creative collection. Banglar Mela, Aarong, Probortona brought some designed shawls in cotton, acrylic and khadi for both men and women.

Makeshift outlets along the roadside are more popular among the people of the low-income group. Footpaths at Gulistan, Purana Paltan, Baitul Mukarram, Motiheel, Farm-Gate, New Market and Elephant road area are seen crammed with

people.

"We collect these winter items from different garment factories," said Azad Mohammed Monu, a hawker selling sweaters at a footpath in front of Dhaka College.

"These are clothes with little flaws or are stock lots of cancelled shipments," he added. The price range is Tk 70 to Tk 400 at these places.

Locally made items that look nice but costs less have attracted many people. "This is what my pocket permits to buy and the bright colours really matches with the clothes I wear," said Afreen Sayeed, a student buying shawls from hawker Mohammed Liton opposite the mosque inside New Market. Liton's shawls are produced in Bogra and cost around Tk 85 to Tk 120.

Banga Bazar is a famous place for warm clothes at bargain price. Shops here also sell clothes produced at different garment factories at a reasonable rate. Sweaters, jackets, mufflers etc. are the main attraction here during winter. "Monkey caps and hand gloves will be available when the temperature falls further," said Mohammed Faruk of Bhai Bhai Garments at Banga Bazar.

Tailors are also making brisk business with the advent of winter. They entertain numerous orders of suits, coats and blazers and charge between Tk 2,000 to Tk 5,000. Readymade flannel quilts are sold in footpaths between Tk 250 and Tk 500.

Sellers predict that the prices of winter items may rise further in the next few days.

healthouting, taxicab & train timing

HEALTH

- Hospitals**
- Heart**
National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases (NICVD), - 9130800, 9122560-59
- Burn**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital
Burn Unit- 8626812-6
- Cancer**
National Cancer Institute-8014914, 8826561-65
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University-8612550-4, 861455-9
- Diabetes**
Diabetic Research Hospital (BIRDEM)- 9661551-5, 8616641-50
- Mother & Child Care**
Shishu Hospital- 9119119, 8116061-62
Azimpur Mother & Child Health

- Training Institute- 8624827, 8624980
- Eye**
Islamia Eye Hospital-9110794, 9119315
National Eye Hospital- 8117202, 8114807
- Dental**
Dental College -9002035
- Orthopaedics**
National Orthopaedics (Pangu) Hospital- 9114075, 9112150
- General**
Dhaka Medical College Hospital- 8626812-6
Rushmono General Hospital- 8317819
Holy Family Hospital- 83111731-25
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital- 8612550-4, 8614545-9
Bangladesh Medical College & Hospital- 8115443, 9118202,

- Shamarita Hospital- 9131901
Suhrawardy Hospital -- 9130800, 9122560-69
Salimullah Medical College Hospital -- 7310061-4, 7319002-6
Cholera Research Hospital (ICDDR)- 8811751-60
Monowra Hospital 8319802, 8318135
- Blood Bank**
Red Crescent Centre- 9116563
Sandhani (DMCH)- 8624040
Sandhani (SMCH)- 7310061, 7310061, 7319022
Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital- 8626812-9
- Eye Bank**
Sandhani International Eye Bank- 8614040
- Ambulances For Dead Body**
Anzuman Mafidul Islam (Kakrail) 9336611, Gandaria 7319808, 7318166,
Al-Markajul Islam 9127867,

- Gulshan 1, 2 markets-Friday
Elephant Road-Friday
Bishal Center-Friday
Baitul Mukarram Market-Friday
Polwell Market-Friday
BCS Computer City-Friday
Isha Khan Shopping Complex-Friday.
Rajlaxmi Complex-Friday
Stadium Market-Friday
Bangabazar Market-Friday
National Museum-Thursday
Ahsan Manzil--Thursday.
New Market-Tuesday
Gausia Market-Tuesday
Mouchak Market-Sunday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Dhanmondi Hawkers Market-Tuesday
Eastern Plaza-Sunday
Farmview Super Market-Sunday
Muktijuddha Jadughar-Sunday
Dhaka Zoo-Sunday
Shishu Jadughar-Sunday

MARKET CLOSED

TAXI CAB

- Yellow Cab**
Navana 9558065
Salida 9344477, 0171620881
Cosmo 9112959 and 8127191
Cab One 7113282-3
Nihon 8624741-2
Orion 9347277
Anudip 8125285 and 8127611
Capital 9352847

- Union 8130485**
Kool 0171826731
- Black Cab**
Cab Ex 9358401
Cabline 8321162
JBS Cab 019364575
Sajan 018126036
Anudip -- 8125285 and 8127611

- Cab One 7113282-3**
Palki 0171052500
Cab I 7113282
Jatri 0171540074
Nipun 9572277
R-Cab 8914782
Star Cab 9571919
Shihab 018202477 & 018228675
KGN 8620011

TRAIN TIMING

- Subarna Express** Leaves Dhaka at 4:00 pm
Mahanagar Prabhathi Leaves Dhaka at 7-30 am
Mahanagar Godhuli Leaves Dhaka at 3-05 pm
Turna Leaves Dhaka at 11-00 pm
Parabat Express Leaves Dhaka at 6-30 am
Joyantika Express Leaves Dhaka at 12-30 pm
Upaban Express Leaves Dhaka at 9-30 pm
Tista Express Leaves Dhaka at 7-00 am
Ekata Express Leaves Dhaka at 5-00 pm
Upakul Express Leaves Dhaka at 6-00 am
Padma Express Leaves Dhaka at 9-20 pm

- Reaches Chittagong at 10:15 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 2-55 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 9-11 pm
Reaches Chittagong at 7-05 am
Reaches Sylhet at 2-30 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 9-20 pm
Reaches Sylhet at 6-40 am
Reaches Bahadurabad at 1-05 pm
Reaches Bahadurabad at 11-55
Reaches Noakhali at 1-35 pm
Reaches Jagannath at 2-30 pm

LIBRARY & INFO-

- Libraries, Cultural and Information Centers**
- Central Public Library-** 8626001-4,
Shishu Academy- 9564128
Shilpakala Academy- 8614673
Bangla Academy- 8619550
Islamic Foundation- 9550280, 9556407
Nazrul Institute- 9114602
Ford Foundation- 8116133
Alliance Francaise- 8611557
British Council- 8618867-8, 8618905-7
Community Development Library- 8113769, 8113604
Goethe Institute Int'l- Dhaka- 9126525-6
Indian Information Centre & Cultural Library- 8615096
The Russian Cultural Centre- 9116314, 9118531, 9118314
Drik Photo Gallery- 9120125, 8112954, 8123412