

DHAKA DENTAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL

Accommodation crisis brewing

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The crisis faced by female students of Dhaka Dental College and Hospital, is likely to escalate with the rise in the number of seats to the college, but authorities have made no attempt to increase the seats in the hostel.

Seats at the Dental College in Mirpur increased from 63 to 106

in 2004-05, where more than 50 percent of the intake was female in the 43rd batch, no changes were made to the hostel facilities.

"A total of 105 students occupy 72 seats, creating difficulties in their studies, while 23 1st year students are forced to put up in the common room on the ground floor where no chairs and tables can be placed," said Popy, a first year student.

She also said that they study sitting on the beds and have only a narrow space to walk through.

"The first part of our exams will be in June but the environment is foul and I cannot concentrate on my studies in such a small and crowded room," she said.

A big question is how the new comers will be able to put up in such a shabby and jam-packed hostel.

Students said an extension to the building is very necessary to

accommodate the number of students, presently at the ratio of 6 students for 4 seats, cramming in the 24 rooms of the four-storey building.

Admitting the prevailing bad condition acting Assistant Officer of the hostel, Moslem Uddin said the four-storey building should be extended to a six storey one, especially to accommodate the new batch where more than half of the students are girls.

College authorities said they had applied to the Public Works Department (PWD) for a vertical extension of the hotel building three months back.

"The PWD in turn asked the government for a budget allocation of Tk 30 lakh for the extension of two floors, but has not shown us any work order till now," said head of the children department, Shariful Islam.

Apart from the seat crisis, security has become a great issue. There has been no hall super for the last six months, and security to girls coming from different parts of the country is at stake. The boundary wall at the back of the hostel is incomplete.

"A few days ago, outsiders used to enter the hostel building and attempt to steal our belongings. We are afraid that some mishap might occur at night," said another student.

On the issue of House Tutor at the hostel he said no decision has yet been taken and may take two more weeks for a decision to be reached.



An under construction extended part of Dhaka Dental College and Hospital in Mirpur.

DHAKA UNIVERSITY HISTORY RESEARCH CENTRE

Soon to be a reality

SHARMIN MEHRIBAN

The Dhaka University (DU) History Research Centre will finally gain ground after lingering for several years since the inception of its idea in 1988, assured SMA Faiz, DU's vice-chancellor.

A syndicate meeting in 1988 decided to establish the centre to preserve the elements of socio-political history of the country and uphold the country's image.

The board of governance at the time included the then VC Prof. Sirajul Islam, in the chair, the chairperson of the History Department, also a member secretary of the board of governance and director of the centre, and deans of the Faculties of Arts and Social Science.

Other syndicate members were the chairperson of Islamic History and Culture, Prof. MR Tarafdar from the History department, Prof. Anisuzzaman from the Bangla department, Prof. Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir from the department of Political Science, Prof. KAM Saaduddin from the Sociology department, Parvin Hasan, associate professor of the department of Islamic History and Culture and Muntasir Mamun, the youngest member in the board and then an associate professor of the History department.

"Prof. Sirajul Islam and I took the initiative," said Mamun, currently a chairperson of the History department and recently appointed director of the centre. He added that the centre was meant for multi-disciplinary historical research that included

political science and sociology. Apart from having an archive of documents, the centre expects to house a museum and publish two regular journals in Bengali and English to carry articles of local and foreign researchers.

No specific location was fixed for the centre but Faiz said that it would be based within the History department. He agreed that the centre had been 'dormant' for several years but he did not specify why, but Mamun said that senior members objected to his presence in the board of governance at that time because he was young. He refused to elaborate.

Faiz said that he appointed Mamun as the director of the centre in 2005 on the recommendation of the dean of Arts Faculty and that the syndicate approved this.

"I appointed Mamun because I have confidence in him," he added.

The current board of governance for the centre includes Faiz himself, the deans of Social Science, and Arts, and chairpersons of the History and the Islamic History and Culture department.

Faiz added that he would nominate additional members from the departments of Islamic History and Culture, Bangla, Political Science and Sociology. After the nomination is completed, the board of governance would make assessments and take other initiatives for the centre.

When asked about an annual budget for the centre, Faiz said that no cash was supplied, as there is no centre. He could not specify the amount of the allocation.

Rajuk cancels own order under pressure

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Chairman of Prasaad Nirman Abu Yusuf Md Abdulah said, "The plot is absolutely commercial. Only commercial plots are sold in public auction."

"Conversion into commercial plot paying fees is not required at all in this case, as the plot is originally meant for commercial use," he said. "It is nowhere spelt out that the zone where the plot is located, is designated for ancillary facilities."

"Though we had to face hassles in obtaining no-objection from more than ten government agencies and a lengthy scrutiny process to get

the plan approved, it was cancelled in an unusually hurried manner," Abdullah said.

The usual process of holding Rajuk board meeting and issuing notice to the affected party in cancelling an approved construction plan was not followed in this case, he said.

Instead of going to the Appellate Authority of Rajuk, the plot owner resorted to legal redress. A High Court bench has recently issued a rule on the Rajuk and stayed the operation of its cancellation letter till disposal of the rule.

Osmani Udyan beautification



Artist view of the proposed entrance to Osmani Udyan.

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the names of eleven sector commanders of the War of Liberation will be constructed. Their portraits will be put up on the boundary wall.

The people involved with this project believe that this time if the park authority fails to recover all its land they would lose control forever.

"This park is historically very

important. So I appreciate this initiative. Establishing fountains after the name of our bravest sons made this project more worthy and gave us a chance to pay our heartiest respect to them," Professor Sirajul Islam, chairman of Osmani Udyan development, beautification and modernisation planning committee.

10x6

9x2