

CMC plunges into session jam

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Chittagong Medical College (CMC) has plunged into a long-term session jam as a section of students refrain fellow students from appearing in the final professional examinations in the scheduled session.

The students also reportedly bar the others from taking in the examinations in due time, creating various academic and administrative complexities at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) as well, sources said.

Besides, an indefinite strike called by the interns over non-payment of allowance added to the backlog of problems hampering treatment of patients, they said.

There are 287 intern doctors at the CMCH against 150 seats for internship, sources said.

As per the curriculum of 1988, students are given options of appearing in the final professional examination in any of the three sessions - January, May and September.

The policy was adopted to stop deferring examinations, but by now it rather appears to have

emerged as a practice at CMC, they said.

Availing the policy, many of the final year examinees at CMC have been refraining from appearing in the examinations whereas the students in other medical colleges are sitting in the examinations in time.

CMC Principal Prof Dr Imran Bin Yunus said, 'It is making CMC students irregular and trailer in service and BCS entry as well.'

To address the situation the CMC authorities at a meeting on April 15 decided to take measures to compel the students to sit for the examinations in scheduled session and complete course in time, Dr Imran said.

It was also aimed at easing session congestion at the college and putting a check on crossing the number of interns at CMCH, he added.

CMC authorities in the April 15 meeting also decided to award four types of punishments to the eligible examinees, to start with the 43rd batch, who would not appear in the examination scheduled to begin on May 2.

The measures include cancellation of 'sent up' (eligibility to sit in exam), restriction on their stay in the hostel after the examinations, compulsory attendance at the lecture classes and fulfillment of ward duties to get fresh 'sent up' in order to sit in the next Final Professional examination in September session.

Ninety-nine per cent of the students did not appear in the Final Professional examinations in the due sessions in last four years, sources said.

Only Sofia Begum of 42nd batch appeared in the final professional examinations in May last year.

Out of 155 students of 41st batch, only ten students appeared in the examinations in the September session. But, none of them could appear all the examinations reportedly due to pressure from the fellow students who chose to become irregular, sources added.

The CMC decision created a mixed reaction among the students.

The students and interns opposing the decision attributed the con-

cessions of examinees and interns at CMC and CMCH to the academic system.

Chittagong Medical College Student Union (CMCSU) Vice President (VP) Abdul Matin, also an examinee of 43rd batch, criticised the decision to cancel the 'sent up'.

"A student achieves it after attending the final year classes and fulfilling all the requirements. So he need not attend the classes or wards again," he said.

"We do not get enough time to prepare for three comparatively harder subjects after completion of classes of the final year," said Faisal Pappu, an examinee of 43rd batch.

"Moreover, many students get their eligibility 'sent-ups' only a few days ahead of the exam," said Md Sanaullah Sanu, CMC unit president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

As such most of the students want to avoid exams in due session and sit in the next session after three months with sufficient preparation, they said.

Besides, political activities and political affiliation of the teachers also hinder the intended

examinees to appear in the examinations, said several students and interns on condition of anonymity.

The teachers, however, blamed the students for deferring the examinations and creating the backlog.

Vice Principal Prof Dr Alim said, "All the classes and wards have been completed at least two months ahead of the final professional examination this year and the teachers never failed to complete the classes or courses within the scheduled time."

Principal Dr Imran echoed Dr Alim saying, "Students who are not serious in study creates the problem willfully through not appearing in the examinations and forcing others to follow them."

Sources said, though 150, out of 156 students of the 43rd batch, got the "sent-up" for the May 2 final professional examinations, only 53 submitted their forms until April 23 one day before the last date for submitting forms with fines.

Yet, the number is being considered as "satisfactory" compared to the previous years.



Chittagong City Corporation launches second women-only bus service in the port city on April 30.

2nd bus service for women launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) launched the second phase of special city bus service for women passengers on April 30.

The city corporation introduced the service for women commuters on April 1.

City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury formally inaugurated the second city bus service for women at a ceremony at the Bahaddarhat intersection.

The female bus service is one of the 42 election pledges made by the mayor during the last mayoral polls in May 2005 to give women passengers, especially the government and private service holders, girl students and the mothers taking their children to school everyday, a hassle-free and comfortable journey.

Although the CCC bothered little to the opposition at initial stage from the transport owners, who run the traditional city services, its noble initiative has caught in some problems right from the beginning that are yet to be resolved.

Scarcity of sufficient buses, high fare, and less number of passengers are posing a threat to the existence of the female service while the mayor and the city corporation officials are quite confident that it will gain popularity and acceptability in a very short period.

"I know very well the nerves of the city dwellers as well their expectations in me. I am also quite aware of the unbearable sufferings our

female passengers face everyday while travelling on board male-laden buses, tempos or other transports. That is why I believe that the service the CCC introduces cannot be failed," Mohiuddin Chowdhury said.

The mayor, while speaking as chief guest at Bahaddarhat, announced that the CCC would introduce another special bus service for male passengers in future to make their journey hassle-free as part of the corporation's pro-people activities. He said female bus services will be introduced in all the routes in the city gradually.

The service started on April 30 with 11 more buses of Rainbow Transport will ply to and from Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, GEC Intersection, Wasa Crossing, Tigerpass, Devanahat, Agrabad, Customs, Port, EPZ, Patenga and Air Port.

Earlier, the CCC launched the service to and from Bahaddarhat, Chawk Bazar, Anderkilla, New Market, Tigerpass and Airport.

A CCC official said the city bus service for the women has failed to draw passengers to a great extent and it has been incurring loss due to less number of passengers. He, however, hoped that the service would be a profit-making one in future.

The fare was high comparing to other existing bus services at the initial stage. But considering the reality, we have decreased the fare to almost half now and for this we think that the female passengers will avail the opportunity to travel on it, he said.



Digging by T & T narrows the road at Nandan Kanan area, creating traffic jam and causing sufferings to the city dwellers. The situation will get worse if it continues during the rainy season. The picture was taken on Saturday.

ZOBAIR HOSSAIN SIKDER

theweekthatwas

Banglalink Mobile Festival concludes

A two-day "Banglalink Mobile Festival" ended at Mariam Nagar Choumuhuni area under Rangunia upazila in the district on Thursday.

In the festival, sponsored by local RR Mobile Care, Subscribers' Information Module (SIM) card was offered at a reduced price.

Pre-paid ISD SIM cards were sold at Tk 400 while mobile-to-mobile at Tk 95 with Tk 20 talk time free in the festival.

A huge number of consumers and visitors thronged the festival amid festivity.

The Banglalink set up a tower at Rangunia five months ago and to set up another soon, sources said.

Green Peace put the MT Alfa Ship on its list of 50 vessels and tankers that used to carry highly toxic chemicals and warned against their scrapping as they might cause serious health hazard to the people.

If the tanker is allowed to dismantle without inspection and clearance it will go against the Brussels Convention, cautioned the speakers.

It will pose a serious threat to the public health, they added.

YPSA Chief Executive (Acting) Mahbubur Rahman, Programme Officer Mohammad Ali Shaheen, Sharif Chouhan of Jono Udyog, Anwar Hossain of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela) and Agrajatra Executive Director Bibhuti Rajjan Das also addressed the rally.

The exhibition displaying the police brutality on the journalists drew a large number of visitors from different professions, educational institutions and people from all walks of life as well.

The visitors expressed their deep resentment, anger and emotional outburst in writing on a remark book kept at the exhibition.

A total of 24 photos were displayed in the exhibition. These photos were collected from the photographers of different newspapers, who were present on the spot during the police action on the first day of the second Test between Bangladesh and Australia.

The exhibition was held on the Chittagong Press Club premises on first day while at Intellectual Square of the university on the second and third day.

photo-shop and Hyper Text Mark up Language (HTML).

Park Chang Bum, Lee Kye Young and Kim Sun Min conducted the course on computer.

The TTC Principal Engineer Mohammed Khalilur Rahman presided over the concluding ceremony.

Photo exhibition on cop action on journo

A three-day photo exhibition to protest the April 16 police attack on journalists at Chittagong Divisional Stadium concluded here on Wednesday.

Students of Chittagong University (CU) Communication and Journalism Department organised the exhibition on the Chittagong Press Club premises and at the Intellectual Square of Chittagong University.

Computer course for teachers

A month long computer training for the teachers ended at Chittagong Technical Training Centre (TTC) in the port city on Wednesday.

Expatriate Welfare and Foreign Employment Ministry and Korea International Cooperation Agency jointly organised the training.

A total of 17 computer teachers from 12 TTCs participated in the training on Internet, networking,

NDC team exchanges views with Rly officials

A team of National Defence College (NDC) exchanged views with the high officials of Railway at the Central Railway building (CRB) here on Monday.

Ten course members from India, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Sudan and Arab Emirate, 22 members of Bangladesh, five NDC faculty members and railway officials from different divisions were present at the meeting.

Bangladesh Railway CSTI (Telecom) Khandaker Shahidul Islam briefed about different aspects of Railway while Railway Eastern Zone General Manager FMA Halim made the address of welcome.

Later, the team leaders and the NDC Commandant Major General Abu Tayub Muhammed Jahurul Alam handed over a crest to General Manager FMA Halim.

Seminar on coastal disaster management

Speakers at a seminar on Saturday stressed the comprehensive education on disaster management and urged the media to play due role to face natural disasters.

The seminar titled 'Strategy for

Coastal Disaster Management and Role of Media' was held at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Chittagong auditorium in the city.

Young Geographers' Environmental Forum (YGEF), a student organisation to protect environment, organised the seminar in cooperation with the Forum for Development Journalism and Communication Studies.

Speakers at the seminar thor-

oughly discussed different aspect of natural calamities and the aftermaths and came up with a number of recommendations in this regard.

Chairman of Chittagong University (CU) Geography and Environmental Studies Department Mohammed Abdul Haque and the Daily Suprabhat Bangladesh Staff Reporter Nazrul Islam Bhuiyan presented two keynote papers.

The Daily Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen was the chief guest with the Geography Department Prof Dr Muhammed Shahidul Islam in the chair.

CU Bengali Department Chairman Prof Dr Maniruzzaman, Chittagong Government Commerce College Vice Principal Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed and IEB, Chittagong Centre Chairman Engineer M Ali Ashraf were present as special guests.



The newly elected leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Chittagong unit take oath at an installation ceremony at the Shah Alam Bir Uttam auditorium of Chittagong Medical College Hospital in the city on Saturday. Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr Khondaker Mosharruf Hossain was present as the chief guest. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury are also seen.