

CU non-resident students cry fiasco

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR

Thousands of students shuttle back and forth around 22 kilometers everyday between Chittagong city and Chittagong University (CU) to attend their classes due to lack of adequate dormitories on the campus.

A total of 18,000 students have been studying in 35 departments under six faculties and three institutes at the university. Of them, over 12,000 students are to attend their classes by shuttle trains or buses from the port city, hampering their academic life seriously.

There are six dormitories -- Shah Jalal Hall, Shah Amanat Hall, Suhrawardy Hall, Alaol Hall, F Rahman Hall and Abdur Rab Hall, for male students and three dormitories Shamsunnahar Hall, Pritilata Hall and Khaleda Zia Hall, for the female ones.

The dormitories can provide accommodation for around 4,500 students, only one-fourth of the students.

Around 1,000 male students stay in around 30 cottages, privately owned rented house alongside the campus while others live in the port city, some 22 kilometers off the campus,



(Left) Alaol Hall of Chittagong University. (Right) Non-resident students of Chittagong University crowd the Sholshahar Railway Station in the port city.

sources said.

Besides, several thousand non-resident students are forced to live at the relatives' houses or messes.

The non-residents numbering over 12,000 are to attend their classes and return home by six

shuttle trains and some minibuses named Tori plying between the university railway station and New Market in the city.

The students said they get studies seriously hampered as one is to spend at least four

hours a day to go to the university and return home due to lack of adequate number of dormitories in the university.

Mohammad Wahiduzzaman said he starts from his Agrabad residence at 6:40am everyday to catch a shuttle train, which

leaves Old Railway Station at 7:20am for the campus.

He said he is to wait minimum an hour after his practical classes to return the city by a train at 5:20pm that causes waste of over four hours.

He said he usually avoids the

minibuses as they offer a disgusting journey taking other students on the way. The students often lock into altercation with the drivers and helpers of the minibuses centring the matter.

He blamed such a situation

for the session jam at different departments as the students could not leave the dormitories before completion of their studies.

Fahmida Rahman said the condition of the female students is miserable compared to male

ones as they cannot stay at cottages or messes.

She said many guardians are reluctant to admit their daughters to the university simply due to accommodation problems. Fahmida said the students got tired after the long journey and cannot go through their studies regularly.

Krishnobrata Bhattacharya, who lives in a mess in the Kusumbag Residential area in the city, said they are to face manifold problems in the messes as the owners are reluctant to rent their houses to bachelors, mainly students. He said there is no congenial atmosphere in the messes for study.

Vice Chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam told The Daily Star that they had sent a proposal to the education ministry and University Grants Commission (UGC) to construct two more dormitories last year.

Termining the university transport-based one, he said they cannot increase the number of trains as the railway tracks need repair when we managed two more trains for the students after discussion with the railway authority last year.

New shifts in five govt schools soon

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

The government has decided to introduce additional shifts in five government secondary schools in the port city to cope with the pressure of increasing number of students.

Introduction of the new shifts involving an approximate annual expenditure of Tk 15 lakh will create scope for admission of 3500 more students to these schools, sources said.

Deputy Commissioner Md Ashraf Shamim has sent a message to the education secretary on Tuesday with a set of recommendations, including the additional human resources and fund that will be required for introducing the new shifts. With no new government secondary school set up after the War of Liberation there was a tremendous pressure of increasing number of students in all the nine schools in Chittagong, sources said.

Waking up to the demand from the cross-section of people here the caretaker government

came forward when the authorities concerned at a meeting on February 19 decided to introduce new shifts with 50 sections in five government schools.

Joint Secretary Md Nazrul Islam Khan of education ministry was the chief guest at the meeting at Chittagong Circuit House conference room with Deputy Commissioner, Chittagong Shamim Ashraf in the chair.

The meeting formed a five-member committee to make recommendations on the required manpower, infrastructure and other expenses for introducing the new shifts and sections.

The committee at a meeting on February 25 decided to visit the schools concerned to prepare recommendations with Mohammad Zaker Hossain, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Education and Development), Chittagong and also convenor of the committee, in the chair.

The committee in its recommendations identified five schools for introducing addi-

tional shift, said Zaker while talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday.

The schools are Chittagong Government High School, Hazi Muhammad Mohsin Government High School, Bakalia Laboratory High School, Chittagong Government Girls' High School, Nasirabad and City Government Girls' High School.

The committee has recommended six new sections to accommodate 420 more students in Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Government High School, eight sections to accommodate 560 more students in City Government Girls High School and 12 sections to accommodate 860 more students in Chittagong Government High School, Chittagong Government Girls High School, Nasirabad and in Bakalia Laboratory High School.

It also proposed recruitment of 83 more teachers to introduce second shifts and new sections.

To implement the initiative

these schools will require an additional budget of Tk 15 lakh annually, of which, Tk 4.53 lakh will come from tuition and admission fees of the students, said the sources quoting the report.

The committee also recommended introduction of four additional sections for class V to Class VIII at Dr Khastagir Government Girls High School, Government Muslim High School and Nasirabad Government (Boys) High School, said the sources.

These schools along with Chittagong Collegiate (Pilot) School have already double shifts, accommodating 2120, 2104, 2065 and 2200 students respectively.

There are 12,794 students in nine government secondary schools, including three girls' schools in the port city.

The number of government schools at secondary level in Chittagong region is 51. A total of 152 posts of assistant teachers are lying vacant, said the sources.

SAND TRADE HAMPERS TOURISM



Trucks wait in a queue on a road along the seashore in the Naval Academy area in Patenga to load sand kept here for sale after lifting them from sea. This new activity has daunted a number of visitors and tourists who through this picturesque area. The photo was taken on Sunday.

theweekthatwas

Bay View School annual function held

The annual function of Bay View School was held on Saturday at the auditorium of Engineers Institute, Chittagong.

Prof Mohammad Yousuf, chairman of Chittagong Education Board, was present as the chief guest at the function.

Prof Yousuf said there is no alternative to the well-planned teaching method for the teachers to provide the students proper guidance.

He said it is the sacred duty of a teacher to build up the character of the students and the success of a student largely depends on teachers.

Chinese business team visits CEPZ

A 21-member business delegation of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Textile (CCCT) visited different factories at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (Cepz) on Thursday.

Chao Jin U, vice chairman of CCCT, said the export processing zones in Bangladesh are ideal places for foreign investment. He said they are pleased to

see an investment-friendly environment here as well as adequate security. He was speaking at a view exchange meeting with senior Cepz officials.

Cepz General Manager Ataul Haque briefed the delegates about the pros and cons of the zone and asked the Chinese businessmen and entrepreneurs to make more investments in the zone.

The team also visited two Chinese-owned factories -- Bangladesh Spinners & Knitters Ltd and World E Dress Pant Ltd -- at the Cepz.

CPC budget session held

The annual budget session of

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) for the fiscal year 2008-2009 was held at the club auditorium on Saturday.

Treasurer Nawsher Ali Khan presented the annual budget at the session chaired by CPC President Ali Abbas. General Secretary Ejaz Yusoff gave address of welcome.

Club members Ataul Hakim, Helaluddin Chowdhury, Moinuddin Quaderi Shawkat, Moazzemul Haque, Anjan Kumar Sen and Jasim Chowdhury Sabuj took part on the discussion on the budget. The members passed the budget unanimously.

'Resist money laundering'

Speakers urged the bankers to play a

vital role in resisting money laundering since it is the main reason for corruption and unabated price hike.

They were addressing a daylong workshop titled "Money Laundering: nature, effect and prevention" organised by Southern University Bangladesh on its Chittagong campus on Saturday.

University Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin was the chief guest at the workshop with Dean of Business Administration Faculty Dr Shawkatul Meher in the chair.

Sanwar Jahan, founding treasurer of the university, was the special guest while General Manager of Bangladesh Bank, Chittagong SK Sur Chowdhury addressed as the chief speaker.

First Vice-President of BGMEA MA Salam, Vice-President of National Bank Badiul Alam and Deputy Director of Bangladesh Bank Chittagong Ibrahim

Bhuiyan were also present at the workshop.

Later certificates were distributed among the participants.

Thai food festival begins

A ten-day long Thai food festival began at Hotel Pavilion on Thursday.

Honorary Trade Adviser to Royal Thai Government Jasim U Ahmed inaugurated the festival at a ceremony as the chief guest.

Councillor Supaparon Wan A Loh and Minister Counsellor Usha Wijaron were the special guests.

Managing director of Hotel Pavilion Nur Mohammad, director operation M Abu Taher and director finance BAM

Yusuf were present.

Associate Professor of Home Economics department of Cassesert University, Bangkok Obcheo Ong Dong conducted a two-day training on Thai food. Chefs of different restaurant of the city participated in the training.

Int'l Women's Day observed

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner M Akbar Ali said women are still lagging behind in the country.

He was addressing as the chief guest a discussion organised by Mamata, a non-government organisation, in cooperation with Manusher Jonno Foundation marking the International Women's Day on

Wednesday.

Mamata Advisory Committee Chairman Md Faruque presided over the discussion while Deputy Director of Chittagong Social Welfare Halima Akhtary, BGMEA First Vice-President M A Salam attended as the special guests.

Chittagong City Corporation Women Commissioner Begum Sabiha Musa and Afroza Kalam were the guests of honour.

Mamata Chief Executive Alhaj Rafique Ahmed delivered address of welcome and Mamata Project Director Swarna Talukder read out the project report.

Earlier, a colourful procession was brought out from CEPZ gate that paraded through different city streets.

Over 200 female workers of the different factories took part in the procession.



Students perform at the annual cultural programme and award giving ceremony of Bay View School at the auditorium of Engineers Institute on Saturday.



Shamageet, a cultural organisation, accorded a reception to artist Hari Prashanna Pal on the DC Hill premises on Friday.



Children render song at the annual cultural function of Sangeet Parishad at Muslim Institute Hall on Friday.