

CHITTAGONG GOVT COLLEGE

Shortage of teachers worries students

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

Chittagong Government College, one of the oldest educational institutions in the country, has been facing shortage of teachers, classrooms and other facilities, hampering studies of over 14,000 students.

Many departments do not have required number of teachers, are running with only three fourth of their requirements, and even have no permanent teacher. Besides, classrooms are in dilapidated condition.

130 teachers for 14,000 students

The college started its journey as an intermediate college in the Joy Nagar area adjacent to Chandan Pura and Chawlk Bazar, a prime location in the port city in 1869. Degree course was introduced in 1913 under Kolkata University. Honours courses were introduced in 1919.

Seventeen subjects in honours and 19 in master's are taught in the college by only 130 teachers against the posts of 216.

Every department should have seven teachers for honours and 12 for master's courses for proper education as per the National University (NU) rule.

Psychology, Sociology, Philosophy and Statistics departments are facing acute shortage of teachers.

Four posts are lying vacant in Sociology department against the sanctioned seven posts where there should have 12 posts as per the NU



Chittagong Government College, one of the oldest colleges of the country.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

rules. In Psychology department three posts and in History department two posts are lying vacant. Statistics, Philosophy, History departments are also facing such problems.

Principal Shekhar Dastidar told The Daily Star that only five departments -

- English, Botany, Zoology, Chemistry and Physics -- have 11 teachers each. Necessary posts have not been created by the education ministry. So, other departments are also facing shortage of teachers, he added.

He said the college authorities have

nothing to do with this matter as only the education ministry can create new posts. Many posts for teachers at other departments created by the education ministry are also lying vacant, affecting the studies of the

students, he said.

One post of associate professor in Bengali, two posts of lecturer in History, one post of professor in Political Science and Philosophy each, two posts of lecturers in Arabic and Islamic Education, one post of associ-

ate professor, and one post of lecturer in Statistic, one post of professor in Physics, two posts of professor in Botany and Zoology are lying vacant now. Two posts of demonstrator are also lying vacant -- one at botany department and the other at zoology department.

Suraya Ruma, a third year student of Sociology, said only one class is held in the department due to shortage of teachers. It is too inadequate to complete the syllabus.

She said that to continue classes properly and complete the syllabus in time, they need separate examination halls and more teachers, Ruma added.

Echoing the same sentiment, Abu Mohammad Shayek Chowdhury, a degree student, said they face more difficulties as there is no allotted classroom for them in the college.

"Our classes are held when only classes of the departments are vacant and it depends on teachers' wills", he said. "They have a class routine which is not followed for shortage of teachers and classrooms."

He said classes remain suspended for three months a year due to intermediate, degree, honours and master's examinations.

Classrooms of Geography and Bengali departments are in dilapidated condition, students allege.

Md Idrish Ali, a teacher of Chemistry department, said shortage of teacher on the one hand and tendency of a section of teachers to private coaching on the other are also affecting the environment of education in the college.

He said renovation of the dilapidated classrooms are also needed to bring back educational atmosphere in the college.

Battery-run autorickshaws ignore rules

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Battery-run autorickshaws are moving along the city roads without approval of the traffic department violating the traffic rules.

They have no number plates as these autorickshaws are not registered with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

It is very difficult for both the passers-by as well as the law enforcement agencies to identify them when these autorickshaws occur any accident.

The illegal vehicles are plying the city roads managing the on-duty traffic sergeants, sources said. "We have to pay Tk 100 per vehicle everyday to the linemen who permit the vehicles to move on the roads," said Habib, a driver, adding that the linemen collect money for the traffic police.

About 500 vehicles are plying the city roads, said the sources. The city-dwellers were enthusiastic about these nature-

friendly vehicles at first. But, to their utter dismay they found that these vehicles charge higher fare which is not affordable by the middle and lower income people.

Pallab Chowdhury, a schoolteacher, said the drivers charge fare three to four times higher than a tempo. A passenger has to pay Tk 3 for the first one kilometre in a tempo whereas he has to pay Tk 10 for the same in a battery-run autorickshaw, he added.

The drivers said the passengers face higher fare as they are to pay police. "If we would have route permit and would not have to pay the police, the charge for the passengers could be reduced to half of the present fare," said Dider, another driver.

Dider said the drivers are to pay autorickshaw owners Tk 500 a day and Tk 1.50 the garage for recharging battery everyday. As the drivers have to pay Tk 750 a day from their income so they charge higher fare from the passengers, Dider added.

Moreover they pay tolls to the local hood-

lums to avoid repression, said Belal Hossain, another driver.

Sources said most of the drivers do not have any licence or any sort of institutional training. Significant number of adolescents are also seen driving these vehicles. Commuters alleged that police do not check the driving licence from them.

SK Bishwas, BRTA deputy director in Chittagong, said it is very difficult to fix a yardstick for issuing licence to these autorickshaws as they do not have any engine and chassis number.

"We have written to the ministry for approval of issuing licence for these autorickshaws to maintain vehicular movements in the thoroughfares and the file in this regard is now waiting for ministry's approval," Bishwas said, adding that battery-run autorickshaws are not cent percent environment-friendly.

These auto-rickshaws discharge acids and consume huge electricity everyday for



Battery-run autorickshaw

STAR PHOTO

recharging, he said.

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Mohammad Shahidullah said they have decided not to allow any battery-run autorickshaw in the city areas as these are not authorised by the BRTA.

"We have already started drive against these vehicles in the city," he said.

It is not possible to deploy sergeants in all thoroughfares to stop these unauthorised vehicles for shortage of traffic sergeants, he said.

When asked how do the vehicles move on the roads in presence of traffic police, he avoided the question saying, "I do not want to make any comment as I know nothing about it."

Roksana Talukder, a commuter, said they do not want the vehicles to be withdrawn from the roads rather they want the authorities concerned to bring them under a system so that the commuters can ride these vehicles at a cheaper rate.

theweekthatwas

Well Park meet held

A monthly general meeting of Well Park Residence was held at its auditorium on Sunday

Well Group Managing Director Syed Sirajul Islam Kamu in the chair.

Sirajul in his speech said Well Park Residence has established its own fame through its service and hospitality. It has been gained through its originality and different characteristics.

Later, a prize titled 'Employ of the month' was handed over to Udayan Barua at the programme.

Call to eradicate graft

A rally was held with a slogan "Good education can only be achieved through student-teachers-and guardians' well intention" in the port city on Saturday.

Sachetan Nagorik Committee (Sanak) of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) organised the event at Ghatkul Government Primary School.

Speakers at the programme said corruption along with illiteracy, lack of education and lack of awareness are hampering the development of the country.

Lack of quality education is a main obstacle to establishing good governance and eradicating corruption, they added.

Sanak-TIB Chittagong Metropolitan Convener Advocate Akhtar Kabir Chowdhury was the chief guest at the programme with School Managing Committee President Mohammad Abdus Sabur in the chair. School Managing Committee Vice-President MA Syed, member Md Samsul Alam teachers ASM Nurul Huda and Milan Banarjee and TIB official Md Ahsan Ullah Chowdhury spoke at the event.

PM's support for 4 Ctg jornos

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan



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Artisan gives final touch to an idol of Durga ahead of the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindu community.

Mahmud on Saturday said the dailies which are published from the port city should be circulated nationally.

He said many newspapers published in Chittagong have better circulation than many newspapers in the capital.

He was speaking at a programme as the chief guest at the VIP lounge of Chittagong Press Club (CPC).

Remembering the rich heritage of newspapers published in Chittagong, he said the first Bangla newspaper in the independent Bangladesh was published in the port city.

Hasan Mahmud handed over Tk 2 lakh each to four journalists Obaidul Haque, Nasir Uddin Chowdhury,

Mohammad Rafique and Pradip Dewanjee -- for their treatment on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Chittagong Press Club (CPC) President Abu Sufian, Chittagong Union of Journalists' President Shahidul Alam, General Secretary Najim Uddin Shymal, and CPC Secretary Rashed Rauf also spoke at the programme.

Film festival in memory of Tareque Masud

A two-day long film festival was concluded on Saturday at Theatre Institute, Chittagong in the port city.

Chittagong Film Centre (CFC) organised the festival

in memory of noted film maker Tareque Masud.

Shaibal Chowdhury said the death of Tareque Masud is irreparable loss for the country.

"Tareque was the founder of independent and trembling stream in film movement across the country", he added.

Three films of Tareque Masud -- Muktir Gaan, Matir Moyna and Antar Jatra were screened at the festival.

Blood donation programme

A blood donation programme was held on the Marine Academy campus in the port city on Friday.

Bangladesh Marine Academy and Sandhani Chittagong Medical College (CMC) Unit jointly organised the programme titled "Marine blood for life". A total of 237 marine cadets and seven officials donated bloods at the programme.

Commandant Dr Sajid Hossain of Marine Academy inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

Sandhani CMC unit president Shubhajit Bhattacharjee chaired the programme. Academy medical officer Dr Goutam Dasgupta, Sandhani Adviser Dr Tarun Tapan Barua, Dr Habibullah Tamal and Secretary Ripan Kanti Das were present at the programme.

DFID team visits Ghasful project

Team of Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) of donor association DFID visited a project titled 'Nest for the children at risk', a programme implemented by non- governmental organisation Ghasful, on Tuesday in the port city.

DFID team members Charley Decan, Andre Lucas and Manusher Jonno Foundation Programme Manager Abdullah Al Mamun spoke at a view exchange meeting with the staff on different activities, concepts, development and achievement of the project.

Ghasful Chief Executive Officer Aftabur Rahman

Jafri, Elama Chief Executive Jemin Sultana Paru and Watch Executive Director Nur-e-Akbar Chowdhury were present at the programme.

Software freedom day observed

International Software Freedom Day was observed in Chittagong.

Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) computer Science Club organised a chat session -- Gono Adda -- on Mukto Darshan and Mukto Sangskriti, on the campus on Saturday on the occasion. General Secretary of Bangladesh Math Olympiad Committee Munir Hasan, Journalist Nasirul Haque, media personality Kamrul Hasan Badal, owner of Bishod Bangla Alam Khurshed were present in the programme.

Committee to solve waterlogging

A seven-member committee was formed to find out the solution of waterlogging problem of the port city during rainy season.

The committee was formed at a meeting of head of the institutions of different service sectors held at Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on Monday, says a press release.

Chittagong Port Chairman M Anwarul Ialam, Chittagong Development Authority Chairman (CDA) Abdus Salam, Chittagong Wasa Chairman AKM Fazlullah and Water Development Board (WDB) Engineer Md Kamruzzaman were present at the meeting with Mayor M Manjur Alam in the chair.

The committee has been asked to submit its report within 15 days to the CCC mayor, says the press release.