



## SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS, CLASSROOMS

# Future of Mohsin College students uncertain



Haji Mohammad Mohsin College, left top, a teacher takes class in a classroom divided by a shutter, left bottom, and students attend a class in a science laboratory in the college.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

Govt Haji Mohammad Mohsin College, one of the prominent colleges in the country, is facing shortage of classrooms as well as teachers, affecting studies of over 11,000 students.

Only 65 teachers taught 11,546 students in only 25 classrooms, which is too inadequate to complete the syllabus, hampering standard of education.

The college is facing difficulties to accommodate the huge students for lack of classrooms.

The seminar room, where cultural events are held, is being used as two classrooms for science students using shutters for lack of classrooms.

"Portions of science laboratory and practical rooms are also being used as classrooms for the science students, hampering the environment of practical classes", said Abu

Mohammad Mehedi Hasan, a teacher of physics department.

Of the students, 2,698 are studying in HSC, 3,470 in degree, 4,884 in honours and 494 in masters classes. There are 14 subjects in honours and two in masters in the college.

With the support of fund from Haji Mohsin, a philanthropist of 19th century, the institute was established in 1874 as Chittagong Madrasa. The madrasa was upgraded to Islamic Intermediate College in 1927 and Haji Mohammad Mohsin College on July 20 in 1979.

It is situated on 31 acres of hilly land with panoramic natural beauty at College Road adjacent to Chittagong Govt High School and opposite to Chittagong Govt College.

The college introduced degree pass course from 1979-80 sessions and honours and masters courses from 96-97 sessions.

There are only four posts of teachers each for Bangla and English departments sanctioned by

education ministry while Chemistry, Islamic History and Culture and Mathematics departments are also facing shortage of teachers.

Principal Prof Mohammad Abdul Gofran told The Daily Star said that they have shortage of teachers in many subjects that forces them to employ part-time teachers against the posts sanctioned by education ministry.

"The college pays salary of these teachers from its own fund", he said, adding that it is very difficult for them to continue this process if the government does not create sufficient posts for all the departments.

Admitting insufficient number of classrooms, Principal Gofran said, "We have no enough space to properly accommodate the students". He urged the education ministry to construct a new building at the college.

Principal Gofran said he has already informed the education ministry about the shortage of classrooms as well as the teachers.

More classrooms are needed to complete the syllabus in time, he said.

Students said the college remains closed about 277 days a year due to public holidays, other vacations and examinations. Moreover, shortage of classrooms and teachers is aggravating the problems.

"We need adequate number of teachers and classrooms so that we can complete our syllabus in time", said Jharna Marma, a student of education department.

"We have to wait outside of the classrooms as we don't have designated room for taking classes", she added. She demanded construction of a new building to solve the problem.

Md Jahed, a student of English Department, said their scheduled classes were not held as the classrooms remained engaged most of the time of the year for degree, HSC, honours and masters examinations.

Vice-Principal Mohammad Alamgir

Chowdhury said although the departments are supposed to hold five classes a day but it was impossible due to shortage of classrooms and teachers.

Mohammad Abul Basar, secretary of teachers' council of the college, said the college is supposed to have 125 teachers, according to National University law. But the Haji Mohammad Mohsin College is run by only 65 teachers, just half of the required number, he added.

These problems of the college should be solved immediately for maintaining quality of education, Basar said. The college achieved best position for best results across the country thrice and secured the first place once as the highest GPA-5 achievers in Chittagong Board, Basar added.

"The college is now lagging behind due to lack of teachers and classrooms", said Syeda Parvin Aktar, a guardian.

# Chittagong charms foreign scholars

ARUN BIKASH DEY

"I have heard about Chittagong from my father, its glorious role in anti-British movement and I became very excited when I got the invitation to attend the conference here," said Aparna Malaviya, a research scholar at the department of Humanities and Social Science of the Institute of Technology, Mumbai, India.

Like Aparna some 20 scholars from different countries came to Chittagong to attend a two-day international seminar on "Changing nature of forced migration: Vulnerability and responsibilities in South and Southeast Asia" at Asian University for Women (AUW) that concluded on Saturday.

Aparna, who was born at Madhya Pradesh in India, said it is her first visit to Bangladesh. "It seems to me as my country and Chittagong like Pashchimabanga," she said, adding that the natural beauty of Chittagong enthralled her.

Chittagong has given birth to many revolutionists like Masterda Surya Sen, Pritilata Waddadar and Kalpana Dutta who fought valiantly against the British, she said. And she feels proud to be here in the land of Masterda.

"I also like the Chittagonian foods, especially, the dry fish," she said.

"I don't find any difference between Chittagong and Colombo except the language," said Prof Dr Lakshman Dissanayake of Sri Lanka.

"You people are very nice, amiable and very hospitable," he said, adding that he had

planned to visit Cox's Bazar, the longest sea beach in the world.

Melissa Jean-Brousseau of Canada said the weather of Chittagong is very fine. "Gentle breeze is blowing all the time that has amused me," she said.

Praising the people of Chittagong, she said, "Although this is my first visit to Chittagong as well as to Bangladesh it seems to me very familiar and I have enjoyed every moment here."

Shujaat Wasty of Canada said, "It's a great experience for me to attend an international seminar like this." He said Chittagong is one of the rarest cities in the world where there is a sea in one side and hills in another side, which is very much eye-catching.

Sustarum Thammaboosadee, a teacher of the faculty of International Studies in Prince

Songkhla University in Thailand, said he likes the port city. "The people in the city with whom I met so far are very amiable," he said, adding that the city also possesses some nice shopping malls.

Sanders Van Nieker of Holland thanked the AUW authorities for inviting him to the conference that brought an opportunity for him to visit this city that lies in the lap of nature.

Dr Pralip Kumar Narzary, a lecturer Fakir Mohan University, Orissa in India, said the price of the products is very high here in comparison to India as he has visited some shopping malls including 'Sanmar Ocean City'.

Except this everything in the port city is very nice, Pralip said, adding that there are many similarities between Chittagong and his native state Assam in India. "The hilly areas of Chittagong feel me as if I were in my

own city," he added.

Dr N Ajith Kumar, director of Centre for Socio-economic & Environmental Studies in Kochi, Kerala, India, said, "Chittagong, so far I have seen, is such a place anybody will fall in love with".

Muhammad Rafique Wassan of Sindh in Pakistan, said "I have never visited Chittagong earlier but I think I would miss something if I would not come here for attending the conference".

Francois Gemenne of France, Laxmi Joshi Gyawali and Shodashi R Rayamajhi of Nepal Dr Vandana Asthana and Rajesh Kharat of India, Rathana Peou Van den Heuvel of Holland, Lutaf Ali Mangrio of Pakistan and Meng Xiangjing of China were also very happy with the amiable behaviour and hospitality of its people.

## theweekthatwas

### US admiral visits IUB

#### American corner

US Navy Rear Admiral Jeffery Scott Jones along with other US navy officers visited the American Corner Chittagong on the Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Chittagong premises on Saturday.

Vice-Chancellor (VC) Dr Hasan Imtiaz Chowdhury greeted Admiral Scott. Dr Imtiaz handed over a crest to him during the visit.

Later, a view exchange meeting was held with American Alumni in Chittagong, NGO activists and environmentalists.

Admiral Scott underscored the need for maintaining relationship between the two countries and exchanging cultural programmes.

Lauren H Lovelace, Director of the American Centre-US Embassy and CAO Garrett Wilkerson of US Embassy were present on the occasion.

### Seminar on maritime safety held

A technical seminar on Maritime Communications and Safety was held on Tuesday at Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Training Complex organised by Nautical Training Institute, Chittagong.

Vice President of Telaurus Communications (Asia

Pacific Region) Trevor Whitworth, Martin Cox, business development in-charge of Applied Marine Instrumentation (AMI) and Robin Grigg were present at the seminar.

They talked about the technical systems on Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS).

### Film festival concludes

A three-day film festival was concluded at the auditorium of Alliance Française de Chittagong on Monday.

Alliance Française de Chittagong organised the festival titled "L'Indiscrète" in association with Chittagong Film Centre (CFC).

Samuel Berthet, director of Alliance Française de Chittagong, inaugurated the festival.

A total of 24 films were screened at the festival. Of them, seven films' theme were on 'city and life', nine films on 'portrait of family' and eight films on 'stories of yesterday'.

### Call to stop early marriage

A dialogue with deprived children and working women was held in the port city on Sunday organised by Bright Bangladesh Forum (BAF) and supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation at its office at Katalganj.

Speakers called upon the local governments to remove child labour and early marriage from the society. They also urged the conscious people to stand



Samajtantantrik Mahila Forum and Chhatra Front take out a procession in the port city of Chittagong on September 24, marking the 79th martyrdom of anti-British revolutionary Pritilata Waddadar.

STAR PHOTO

unit to protect the rights of the children.

Ilyasmin Akter, president of Shishu Parishad of Ward 17, presided over the meeting. BAF Development Mentor Abdullah-hil-Mamun and BBF Programme Director Nasrin Sultana Khanam spoke on objective of the dialogue.

Park Chief Executive Nazrul Islam Manna, Ward

Development Committee member Dr SM Abu Taleb and BBF Chief Executive Utpal Barua were present at the programme.

### Awakening Festival held

'Awakening Festival-2011' was held in Chittagong

University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) on Friday organised by Cuet Journalists Association.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr Shyamol Kanti Biswas inaugurated the programme followed by a colourful rally.

A seminar on "The importance of journalism in university" was held at university auditorium marking the festival.

Speakers said the practice of journalism at university level is very important.

The journalists can project real picture of the university through their writings and for this they should play their role with honesty and sincerely, they added.

Prof Shyamol and chairman of the Communication and Journalism Department Md Morshedul Islam spoke at the seminar.

Madhab Deep, lecturer of the department, presented the key-note paper in the seminar.

### CU Nationalist Teachers' Forum formed

A 33-member Executive Committee of Nationalist Teachers' Forum of Chittagong University (CU) was formed for two years on Tuesday.

Prof Dr A N M Munir Ahmed Chowdhury of Political Science Department and S M Nasrul Kadir of Finance and Banking Department were elected president and general secretary.