

# Embattled City College wages brave struggle

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Over 14,000 students of Government City College face uncertainty following inadequate number of teachers and shortage of classrooms as well as infrastructure. Twenty-five posts of teachers, including vice principal, are lying vacant in the college, hampering academic activities. A total of 103 teachers are present against 128 sanctioned posts where 153 teachers are needed according to National University rule. The Government City College, one of the traditional educational institutes in the port city as well as across the country, is located at Ice Factory Road under Kotwali Police Station. The college started its journey in July 1954 as Chittagong Night College with arts and commerce subjects for intermediate students on the premises of Chittagong Municipal High School. Later, the campus was shifted to Kajem Ali High School in August the same year as the number of students was increasing day by day. The college introduced the day shift in 1957. The college was renamed as Chittagong City College in July 1962 and was shifted to Ice Factory Road in the New Market area. The institution introduced degree course in 1965 and honours and masters courses from the 1972-73 sessions. The college now offers honours courses in 15 subjects and masters in 12 under different disciplines, apart from HSC and degree courses. Principal Harishankar Jaladas told The Daily Star that there are 103 teachers for over 14,000 students that are too inadequate to complete the curriculum and syllabus, hampering quality of education. A total of 25 posts of teachers are lying vacant in the college for over a year. The vacant posts include four professors, four associate professors, six assistant professors, and 11 lecturers. Three posts of demonstrators, out of six, in the science departments are also lying vacant for the last few years.



Chittagong City College

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Dipa Mojumder, a third year student of Bangla department, told the Daily Star that students of other classes wait outside of the classrooms when one class is going on, hampering the atmosphere of the classes. She said no classes are held when examinations of different sessions are held due to shortage of

classrooms. Only two classrooms are allocated for the students of six sessions in a department, Principal Harishankar said, adding that class of only two sessions is held a day depriving four other sessions of classes. He said when classes of two sessions are held students of other four

sessions wait outside the classrooms, as they have no common room. Assistant Prof Mohammad Jahirul Haque Swapan said the problem can be solved if government builds a new building on the campus. He said there is no playground for the students which affects the cultural activities of

the institution. Prof Harishankar said the caretaker government had approved two academic buildings for the college and allocated land in this regard. But, for lack of initiative by the government and the authorities concerned, the work is not progressing well, he said.

## theweekthatwas

### Retired Port Officers' Assoc formed

A 12-members ad-hoc committee of Retired Port Officers' Association was formed on Saturday with Hadi Hossain Babul as convener and Ataur Rahman member secretary for six months. The association was formed at a meeting of the retired port officers on the Chittagong Port Boys' High School premises in the port city. Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) acting chairman Captain M Shahjahan was present as the chief guest with former CPA member Hadi Hossain Babul in the chair. Former Deputy Secretary Md Saifuddin Khaled Khan, Captain Arif Mahmud, former chief engineer Sultan Mahmud, Mosharraf Hossain, Deputy Traffic Manager Imam Box. Dr AB Chowdhury and Chittagong Port Officers' Association President Md Allaaddin Miyan also spoke at the meeting.

### Proper housing for tourism stressed

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Chairman Md Hemayet Uddin at a seminar on Sunday said development of the tourism industry is very much related with the development of proper housing. "We have to change our outlook for developing the tourism sector", he said, adding that Chittagong has potential to develop tourism as an industry. Hamayet was addressing as the chief guest the seminar titled "Role of housing industry in development of tourism and economy" organised by Bd-Red at a hotel in the city. Engineer Bishwajit Barua, assistant chief of architectural department, presented the key-note paper at the seminar. Bd-Red Adviser Dr Captain Masudur Rahman Prince, The Dainik Suprobat City Editor M Nasirul Haque, former chairman of Bangladesh Engineers' Institution Engineer Delwar Majumdar, artiste Sharier Khaled and RF Holdings Limited Managing Director Kamrul Hasan Bachhu spoke at the meeting. Bd-Red Chief Executive Yasin Khan presided over the seminar.

### Film on Kishori Amonkar screened

Assistant High Commission of India in association with Chittagong Film Centre (CFC) organised a film evening at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC) in the port city on Sunday in observance of the 80th birth anniversary of Bidhushi Kishori Amonkar, a music exponent of Jaipur Atrauli Gharana. Bhinna Sharaj, a documentary based on life of classical music maestro Kishori Amonkar, directed by noted film maker Amol Palekar and Sandhya Gokhale was screened at the programme. Somnath Ghosh, Assistant High Commissioner of India, inaugurated the programme as the chief guest. Shaibal Chowdhury, director of Chittagong Film Centre, Ustad Swarnamoy Chakraborty and Ustad Mihir Nandi spoke on the occasion.

### CCC to set up diabetic centre

Speakers here on Thursday called upon the government to set up hospitals in the port city so that the poor people could get the medical service easily. They made the demand at the inaugural programme of "Heart disease follow-up clinic" organised by National Heart Foundation held at Mansurabad in the city. Mustafa Hakim Welfare Foundation supported the programme. Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor Mohammad M Manjur Alam presided over the meeting. Manjur in his speech assured the people of setting up a diabetic centre in the city by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC). Dr Sheikh Shafiu Azam, General Secretary of National Heart Foundation Prof Dr Mustafa Kamal and CCC Councillor Mohammad Sirajul Islam also spoke at the programme.

### Citycell customer week begins

Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian inaugurated the customer week of Citycell Customer Care in the port city on Sunday as the chief guest where Citycell Regional Commercial Head Mohammad Fahim was present as the special guest. Priority booth was also inaugurated for senior citizens and expecting mothers on the occasion. In observance of the week the company also offered many package services to the customers.

# Fund constraints hold up Sandhani blood donation



Sandhani, Chittagong Medical College (CMC) unit office in the port city. Inset, A person donates blood at Sandhani CMC unit in Chittagong.

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ARUN BIKASH DEY

Sandhani, Chittagong Medical College (CMC) unit, is facing difficulties in conducting its regular activities due to fund constraints.

The MBBS and BDS students of the college run the unit.

Sources said to raise its fund, Sandhani has been charging Tk 200 for a bag of fresh blood from each recipient for screening blood from September 1. Sandhani screens the blood it donates to the patients to ascertain whether there is any germ of diseases like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphilis, Gonorrhea and HIV, said the Sandhani members.

CMC unit President Shuvojit Bhattacharjee said ithad an agreement with AK Khan Foundation for one year that expired in August 2011. The foundation used to sponsor the screening charges, he said.

They are to charge the recipients for blood-screening, he said, adding that they do not charge the poor patients. He said the AK Khan Foundation has agreed to renew the agreement.

Abul Bashar, Chittagong division coordinator of the foundation, said they have already approved the fourth installment of the donation which will be disbursed soon.

He said the foundation will evaluate the activities of Sandhani throughout the year and will monitor whether the fund is being used properly or not.

Sandhani collects blood from voluntary donors on different occasions like the Victory Day, Pahela

Baishakh, International Mother Language Day and Independence Day. They also collect bloods from the regular donors in their office.

A donor gets a "donor card" for a bag of blood, said Sandhani CMC unit Secretary Ripan Kanti Das, adding that the donor will get a bag of blood in need. "As we perform screening of five diseases the donor can know whether he or she carries the germ of any of these diseases," he said.

Sandhani let the donors know if they carry any

**Demand for blood in the port city is about 60,000 bags a year while Sandhani is able to supply only 6,500 bags**

germ of any of these diseases through telephone and via letter or mail, he added.

Ripan said they do not get any assistance from the government. But, they borrow ambulance from Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) during blood collection programmes, he said, adding that Social Service Department at CMCH helps the poor patients providing them with blood.

Mainly the ex-students of CMCH and well-wishers provide financial assistance to Sandhani, Ripan said. He said CMC unit collects 7,000 bags of blood on

an average a year. "This year we are expecting to accelerate the figure to 8,000," he said.

Farzana Aman, who went to Sandhani for a bag of fresh blood for her brother who was undergoing kidney dialysis, said the Sandhani officials told her to manage a donor of any blood group to get a bag of blood.

She said her brother needs three bags of blood a month and where she will find such a number of donors every month?

Buddhadeb Sarkar, finance secretary of Sandhani, CMC unit, said they try their best to help the patients. "If we have available blood in our collection we provide blood without exchange," he said, adding that the system of exchange is for the sake of patients.

Sandhani also conducts cornea collection activities. Corneas are collected from the people who donate their corneas after death.

"In that case written consent is needed from two members of donor's family attested by two first class officers," Ripan said.

Besides, Sandhani has employed two staff at eye department in the CMCH who motivate the patients to donate corneas after their death.

Officials and doctors of Pahartali Eye Hospital provide technical assistance in collecting corneas, Ripan said, adding that the hospital also preserve the collected corneas.

Sources said the demand for blood in the port city is about 60,000 bags a year while Sandhani can supply only 6,500 bags.