

One of the many cracks, *inset*, which have been developing in Chittagong Medical College Hospital's Dental Unit building since its inception on April 29, 2006. The extent of the danger became so alarming that academic activities had to be shifted recently to a former building of the unit which had already been declared uninhabitable. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Enrolment for higher edn increased Says Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Student enrolment at tertiary level has increased threefold in the past seven years in the country, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday.

Now, around 2.2 million students are studying in the country's different universities and colleges, while the number was 0.7 million in 2005, he said.

The minister said these at the opening ceremony of an education fair titled "Education UK Exhibition 2013" at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital. The exhibition will continue from 11:00am to 6:00pm today.

Representatives from 52 universities and colleges in UK are participating in the exhibition. Information about UK visa can be availed from representatives of the UK Border Agency at the event.

Nahid urged the UK government to take steps for ensuring easier education opportunity for Bangladeshi students in the UK.

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Robert W Gibson CMG also spoke at the programme.

CMCH dental unit in a shambles

ARUN BIKASH DEY and TAREK MAHMUD, City

With a lack of equipment, teachers and a building, Chittagong Medical College Hospital's (CMCH) Dental Unit is failing to serve and live up to expectations.

Dental students and internees claimed the unit's five departments—paediatric dentistry, conservative dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, prosthodontics and orthodontics—are overwhelmed with shortages.

The first to be pointed out is the absence of an X-ray machine. Up to 200 patients who require this service every day have to opt for private diagnostic centres.

Some students, seeking anonymity, alleged that some teachers who have such diagnostic centres adjacent to CMCH were not interested in properly equipping the unit.

Prof Morshed Mawla, the unit's head, however, said, "There is an X-ray machine but no technician to operate it."

The equipment at present is sufficient in the context of a public hospital, he said.

The students do not think so. They say the lack of equipment was badly affecting their practical lessons.

Most of the dentists' chairs have become dilapidated, pointed out one internee, Iqbal Hossain Aman.

Against a requirement of at least 20 dentists' chairs, each department has around five. "This causes patients to wait long hours in queues

every day to avail treatment," said Abdullah al Faruque, another internee doctor.

He added that there was a shortage of autoclaves, the most effective machine for sterilisation.

"Currently equipment are sterilised by boiling and using chemical agents. Even then, some of the boiling equipment are out of order," Abdullah said.

Prof Morshed said there were autoclaves in every department.

The students pointed out the absence of an operation theatre and inpatient services. Urgent operations were done in the ear, nose and throat (ENT) department once a week while patients with critical conditions had to take admission in the ENT ward.

There is a single medical assistant against 20 required to deliver proper treatment, they added.

Admitting the fact, Prof Morshed said, "The dental unit should be built up as a hospital with facilities for inpatients and outpatients and with sufficient staff, doctors and teachers."

The around 300 students are now having to do with 24 teachers—an assistant professor, two dental surgeons and 21 on deputation—against a requirement of 160 teachers, he said.

Prof Morshed said proposals he sent over the creation of new posts to the health ministry through the CMC principal was now under consideration of the public administration ministry.

The problems do not end there.

Students recently had to shift their academic activities to their old two-storied building, declared uninhabitable, as the present two-storied building, inaugurated on April 29, 2006, developed severe cracks.

"We found cracks in the walls since its inception in 2006," said Shahnaz Mehrin Chowdhury, an internee doctor.

Prof Morshed said the construction specialists could comment better on what happened. "We are looking into the matter."

CMC Principal Prof Dr Selim Muhammad Jahangir said there was a shortage of teachers in dental courses throughout the country.

Despite this, the government provided teachers from different institutions on deputation, he said, adding, "Now we are taking initiatives for introducing post graduate courses."

CMCH Director Brig Gen Khondakar Shahidul Ghani admitted that there was a shortage of staff and equipment at all hospitals around the country.

"CMCH is equipped with staff and equipment for 550 people but in reality the number of patients coming here is three times as many."

A total of 1,908 patients were admitted to the hospital on February 19, he said, adding, "We are trying to get funds from the government, donors and philanthropists."

"Introducing facilities for inpatients for the dental unit is under our active consideration. The unit should have a separate identity," he said.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH SC ORDER Four secys face contempt of court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against four secretaries for not raising salaries and other facilities for the lower court judges as per its earlier order.

The court asked the secretaries to the cabinet division and ministries of finance, law, and public administration to explain in two weeks why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against them.

The four bureaucrats were also asked to attend the court on March 14 and explain why they did not execute its order.

The rule came during the hearing of Masdar Hossain Case, popularly known as the judiciary separation case, which resulted in the separation of the judiciary and creation of the Judicial Service Pay Commission (JSPC) in 2007.

In 2008, the JSPC recommended providing lower court judges additional allowances equivalent to their basic monthly salaries and increasing other amenities.

As the recommendation remained unimplemented, the SC on July 19 last year asked the government to implement it in a month. The apex court then extended its order several times after the government prayed for more and more time to execute the order.

The six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, which issued the rule, will hold the next hearing on March 14.

Strike called for March 3 at Sust

SUST CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Students' Union and Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday called upon students of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (Sust) to abstain from all academic activities on March 3, demanding capital punishment for all war criminals and its execution as early as possible.

Their other demands are: banning of Jamaat-e-Islami as the party was involved in war crimes; trying the culprits responsible for vandalising Shaheed Minars and torching the national flag across the country; and seizing and bringing all wealth of Jamaat-Shibir under the state ownership.

The demands were declared in separate press conferences.



Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu at Amar Ekushey Boi Mela in the capital's Bangla Academy yesterday at the publishing ceremony of a book on the collection of his speeches in the parliament.

PHOTO: PID

6 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Six people were killed and 15 others injured in separate road accidents in Sherpur and Habiganj yesterday.

UNB from Sherpur reports, four people died as a bus hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw from the opposite direction on Sherpur-Jhenaigati highway in Jhenaigati upazila yesterday.

Two of the deceased were Abdul Kadir, 50, of Kalinagar village in the upazila; and Hijul Islam, 30, son of Tuta Miah of Bajidkhila in Sherpur sadar upazila.

Belyet Hossain Tarafder, officer-in-charge of Jhenaigati Police Station, said the

Jhenaigati-bound empty bus from Dhaka rammed the auto-rickshaw at about 9:00am.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reports, two people were killed and 15 others injured as a passenger bus plunged into a ditch beside Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Manikpur in Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj yesterday early morning.

The deceased were Taus Mia, 50, of village Shaldigha in Madhabpur upazila; and Russel Mia, 30, of village Fandauk of Nasirnagar upazila in Brahmanbaria district.

The injured were taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

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* Some of the requirements may be relaxed for candidates with greater experience. Excellent remuneration package commensurate with experience will be on offer for the deserving candidates together with good career prospects. Applicants are requested to apply with full CV, a signed application letter, attested photocopies of all academic records and 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photographs within **14th March, 2013; to The Vice President, Human Resources**. Please write the name of the position applied for on top of the envelope. Applicants residing abroad may send in their detailed CV and application to **karen@aiub.edu** and rest of their documents by post. Only Short listed applicants will be contacted for interview. Confidentiality of the applicants shall strictly be maintained.

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POLLS-TIME POSTINGS OF OFFICIALS EC mulling changes in draft proposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission may retreat from its draft proposal seeking that the government must consult the commission about posting and transfer of any civil servant of any ministry during the parliamentary elections to keep the polls free from influence.

The EC is mulling over some changes in the proposal as some senior officials of the EC Secretariat strongly opposed it at a meeting yesterday, reasoning that it would overburden the commission and hamper its main task of conducting elections, said meeting sources.

Against this backdrop, the EC asked the officials to identify the ministries which play direct role in holding parliamentary polls and recommend that only those ministries should consult the commission before posting and promoting any of their officials. The commission then may redraft the proposal accordingly.

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz yesterday said, "We adjourned the meeting today [yesterday]. We will sit again to finalise the proposals for electoral reforms."

About the election-time consultation, the EC had earlier drafted a proposal to bring changes to the Representation of the People Order (RPO).

The previous EC headed by ATM Shamsul Huda sent a set of proposals to the government in February last year. It proposed making it mandatory for the Cabinet Division and the ministries of LGRD, public administration, and home affairs to consult the commission before making any election-related decisions.

The law ministry sent back the proposal to the incumbent EC constituted in February last year for opinions. Since then, the current EC led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad has been discussing and re-drafting the proposal and reviewing the existing laws and proposals of the previous commission.

The existing RPO says the metropolitan police commissioner, deputy commissioner, superintendent of police or officers subordinate to them serving in a district shall not be transferred without consultation with the EC.

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