

# Four classrooms for 15 batches

MD ABBAS, CU

If you go to the Marine Science and Fisheries Institute of Chittagong University, you will surely come across a bunch of students waiting outside a classroom for another group to finish their class.

As soon as the class finishes, they hurry inside having no time left to waste. Another group will also similarly wait before the class finishes.

This is a common scenario at the institute having only four classrooms for around 400 students.

The institute which started in 1985 with only marine science has now three disciplines -- two others are fisheries and oceanography -- under which 15 batches of students are currently enrolled.

Though the number of students has increased over the years, that of classrooms remain the same.

Biplob Gosh, a third-year student of Fisheries, said, "Due to the shortage of classrooms we get to attend maximum two classes a day, sometimes even one, which is one of the reasons we face session jam."

"As we do not have enough classrooms, the seminar room is also used as one," he said.

However, this is not the only problem that they are facing. Students said they have only 23 teachers and only one seminar library for 400 students.

- Starts journey in 1985
- 23 teach 90 courses in 3 disciplines

There are around 90 courses taught under the three disciplines, so it is a major challenge for a small number of teachers to complete before the deadline, said many teachers of the institute.

"Though all the departments should have a seminar library but in our case we are sharing one with students of two other departments," said Ibrahim Sifat, a third-year student of Oceanography.

"As a result the seminar library remains jam-packed with students of the three departments most of the time leaving limited scope for us to utilise the resources," said Sifat.

Apart from those, five laboratories with no modern equipment is another major problem that the students of this institute face.

Sourav Saha Joy, a third-year student of Marine Science department, said, "We could not conduct any biological tests on fish as these laboratories lack modern equipment."

Moreover, due to the lack of trained manpower, chemicals

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A section of 566 students who received Edexcel High Achievers Award 2016, jointly awarded by British Council and Edexcel, pose at the award ceremony at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre yesterday. Students from 56 English medium schools across the country received awards in four different categories for their outstanding academic performance this year.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# People silent as we're in power

Says Obaidul, asking AL leaders to stop being arrogant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader during a meeting in the city yesterday warned his party men not to indulge in abuse of power and misbehave with the people.

"Now you are in power. So, the people are silent. But they will punish you in ballots during the election," he said referring to the AL leaders who distanced themselves from their voters.

"Two incidents of bad behaviour can overshadow 10 brightest achievements. People will remember the bad behaviour."

A leader has to be in touch with the pulse of the people; love of the people

is the most valuable treasure for a politician, said Obaidul while addressing an AL rally of Rajshahi division.

He said, "People told me even Sheikh Hasina is available on the phone, but her leaders in the districts are unreachable. Being a secretary of the party, how will I work if I find our leaders unavailable...?"

Criticising leaders, lawmakers and ministers from the division, Obaidul, also road transport and bridges minister, said, "We don't want godfathers in the party. We want popular leaders in districts, upazilas, unions and wards."

Obaidul asked the AL leaders to rectify their shortcomings before the general elections to be held within

December next year and advised them to be watchful so that their reputation is not tarnished by misdeeds of their subordinates, close affiliates or relatives. "You'll be detached from people and lose in the elections if you allow the people surrounding you engage in misdeeds." Urging the need for engaging dedicated leaders in committees of different units of the party, he said, "I noticed many dedicated leaders have been deprived of political posts. Do not form any pocket committee, choose dedicated leaders and assign them in political activities."

Obaidul also asked AL activists not to act as protectors of their leaders' ill motives.

# Learn English but don't forget roots

Nahid urges winners of Edexcel awards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 566 students of 56 English medium schools across the country have received Edexcel awards for their brilliant academic performance.

The event took place at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday amid presence of the awardees, other students, parents, teachers and distinguished guests.

Pearson's largest qualification brand Edexcel, in collaboration with British Council, hosted its fifth academic award ceremony for the students who achieved outstanding results in their international GCSE and A-level examinations in 2016.

Of the total awardees in four different categories, 385 got

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# CAN YOU SEE BEYOND?



Thick cloud of dust from this incomplete road makes it almost impossible to see even the largest vehicle only a few feet away. The five-kilometre stretch of the road, connecting Gararon and Bormi Bazar in Gazipur, has been in a deplorable state for nearly three years. The condition worsened eight months back when the authorities laid brick rubble as bottom layer on the road as part of a repair project. The unfinished work left the brick rubble exposed, causing the formation of dust when vehicles ply the road. Crops and trees in the area are now covered with reddish brick dust. Residents in the area are the worst sufferers as many of them now have respiratory complications. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE AKAND

# Drop under-18 marriage provision

HRW senior official urges govt

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh should remove the provision in the draft law permitting marriage under the age of 18 to work for a country free of child marriage, said a senior official of the Human Rights Watch (HRW).

"...parliament is considering legislation that would allow child marriage for the first time in decades," Heather Barr, senior researcher, Women's Rights Division of the HRW, wrote in an article titled "Girls' Rights Hang in the Balance in Bangladesh".

"The current law bans marriage before the age of 18 for women and 21 for men, with no exceptions. The new law would permit marriage of girls below age 18 in special circumstances, such as accidental or unlawful pregnancy."

The Bangladesh government is yet to take sufficient steps to end child marriage, in spite of promises to do so, she claimed.

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# 10TH CONVOCATION RU puts graduates in uncertainty

ARAFAT RAHAMAN, RU

Frustration grips the graduates waiting to attend the 10th convocation of Rajshahi University (RU), as the authorities have yet to announce the date of the programme even though two months have elapsed since the registration process ended.

The disheartened graduates are blaming the RU authorities for the delay.

Md Helal A Siam, a graduate, said, "It remains a dream for me to participate in the convocation."

Terming the authorities' delay in declaring the convocation date a failure, he said, "It is really frustrating."

Mentionable, the university administration opened the online registration process on November 3 last year setting the deadline on November 30 only for those who earned their masters, MBBS, BDS, MPhil and PhD degrees between 2011 and 2014.

The registration fee was fixed at Tk 3,570, which created discontent among the graduates.

Another graduate, Shamim Rahman, said they have spent a good amount of money for the registration.

But the university administration has yet to inform when the programme will take place, he said, demanding that the authorities fix a date as soon as possible.

Some of the graduates even submitted a letter to the university administration on November 23, requesting it to decrease the fee and extend the registration deadline. Upon request, deadline was extended for December 10. But the fee was not curtailed.

Later the deadline was extended again until December 15, for the last time, according to the university website.

The graduates questioned why the authorities have hurriedly closed the registration process whereas they failed to announce the convocation date. They urged

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