

The University Of Chittagong

—Hayat Hussain

BRIEF HISTORY: The University of Chittagong, situated about 12 miles north of the Port City of Chittagong, was inaugurated on November 11, 1966 by the then Governor of erstwhile East Pakistan Abdul Monem Khan. Earlier, on August 29, 1964, its foundation was laid by the then President of Pakistan, Field Marshal Ayub Khan. When the idea of a new University for Chittagong Division was first floated a public debate ensued on the location of the University between the three main claimants, Chittagong, Comilla and Sylhet. Mr. Mofizuddin Ahmed of Comilla being the then provincial education minister and Mr. Fazlul Quader Chowdhury of Chittagong, Speaker of the National Assembly, it was expected, for obvious reasons, that the main tussle would be between these two districts and the Government would be in real difficulties choosing between the two. Finally, it was found that the decision in favour of Chittagong was taken not from political pressure or anything of that sort but on sober counselling from bureaucrats of the relevant spheres, particularly the then Commissioner of Chittagong, Mr. Hasan and the Deputy Commissioner, Mr. Jalaluddin (now Education Secretary).

Amidst serious pressure and counter-pressure from the feuding lobbies of Chittagong and Comilla President Ayub Khan, while on a short visit to Dhaka, took the decision rather abruptly sitting in a backroom of the President House with the bureaucrats. It was, in fact, the relative significance of Chittagong as a port city, a growing city and the second city of the province only next to the capital that Chittagong merited the favourable consideration.

The First Vice-Chancellor and his Handful of Colleagues.

As a personal choice of President Ayub Khan, Dr. Azizur Rahman Mallick, then Chairman of the Department of History, Rajshahi University, was appointed Project Director of Chittagong University. Dr. Mallick, however, gave a good account of himself and completed the first phase of construction in a record time so that the classes could start by the end of 1966. Soon after Prof. Mallick was appointed the first Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University and remained in that position

for quite sometime.

The Present Size of the University.

At present the University has four faculties—Arts, Science, Social Science and Commerce and 20 Departments. There are also three faculties outside the campus but affiliated to the University.

Colleges and 11 professional or vocational institutions such as three Teachers Training Colleges at Comilla, Noakhali and Chittagong two Medical Colleges at Chittagong and Sylhet one Engineering College one Military Academy one Arat College and one Forestry College at Chittagong.

New Academic Depots. and the Statutory Bodies.

The University also has an Engineering section a Medical Centre, a Physical Education Department a Cadet Corps Centre, a Central Press a Security Department and a Transport section. The University runs a school and a college upto HSC level. Another school financed

by the World University Service will also start soon near the University campus.

The important statutory bodies of the University are the Senate, Syndicate, Academic Council, Finance Committee, Planning and Development Committee, the Board of Advanced Studies and the Board of Trustees of Chittagong University Museum. The University Museum is located in Chittagong city.

Accommodation and Transport Problem.

Accommodation problem on the campus is very acute. Most of the teachers, officers and other employees live in the city or in other areas outside the University campus. On the other hand those living on the campus are largely dependent on the city markets for their day to day marketing. A round-the-clock transport service is the life blood of the University and the cost is staggering.

It is due to the absolutely irrational selection of a site far off the town. Today not only Taka 70-80 lacs are being wasted per year on the transport and communication head it is also costing the University thousands of man-hours everyday lost on account of the distance between the city and the University. So this problem is affecting the university both academically as well as financially and the problem is getting more acute day by day.

During the war of Liberation. During the war of liberation a good number of students, employees and one part-time teacher of Philosophy, Mr. Abani Dutta became martyrs. Luckily for the teachers most of them including the possible targets of the Occupation Army could move away from the campus before the invading convoy could reach it after occupying Chittagong proper. Before that a unit of Bengali Jawans of the East Bengal Rifles took position inside the university area and inspired by the martyrs people but in the face of advancing enemies they fought without offering any resistance.

A good number of teachers including Dr. A.R. Mallick Vice-Chancellor (See Page 8)

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Chancellor Prof. Ali Ahsan Dr. Rashidul Huq Dr. Anisuzzaman and Anupam Sen crossed the border at Ramgarh and reached India while some others hid themselves in the villages till the first fury of the enemy attack or crackdown was over. The General Secretary of Chittagong University General Students Union (CUCSU) Abdur Rob who was a student of M.A.—I in History was killed by an stray bullet while another student of the same Department.

Farhad was tortured to death.

As per decision of the Syndicate a new Hall for the students

the construction of which is to

be shortly undertaken will be

named as Sahid Abdur Rob Hall.

Some roads across the campus

have also been named after some

other students and employees of

the University who became martyrs of the war. A Liberation War Memorial has been erected recently in front of the Arts Faculty building designed by Murzata Bashir.

The other Vice-Chancellors.

After Prof. Azizur Rahman

Mallick the other Vice-Chancellors of Chittagong University were Dr. Innes Ali (1971-73), Prof. Abul Fazal (1973-75), Dr. Abdul Karim (1975-81), Dr. Abdul Aziz Khan (1981-1985). During the nine months' War of Liberation Mr. U.N. Siddiqui the then Treasurer of Chittagong University was appointed acting Vice-Chancellor of the University by the Government. The post of Treasurer has been abolished under the new Chittagong University Act of 1973.

The present Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University is Prof. Muhammad Ali who was elected in the panel of three by the Chittagong University Senate on 4th April '85 and the Government has appointed him Vice-Chancellor for a period of four years.

Though the University Act has

provisions for appointment of a

Pro-Vice-Chancellor like Dhaka University no one has so far

been appointed in this post. Normally the Vice-Chancellor gives

charge to the senior Dean in

absence of the Vice-Chancellor.

The present Syndicate.

Like all other statutory bodies

the Vice-Chancellor is also the

Chairman of the Syndicate the

highest executive body of the

University which sits at least

once a month and which has to

approve all decisions of the Uni-

versity. Teacher-members of

Syndicate are elected by the

teachers while others are nomi-

nated by the Senate, Academic

Council and the Government.

At present the member of Chit-

tagong University Syndicate are

Prof. Muhammad Ali—Vice-Chan-

cellor (2) Prof. Ali Emdad Khan

Dean (3) Prof. R.I. Chowdhury

Professor (4) Mr. Abdul Mannan

Associate Professor (5) Mr. Ha-

yat Hussain—Assistant Professor

(6) Md. Alauddin—Lecturer (7)

Justice Abdul Quddus—Law Se-

cretary (8) A.K.M. Ahsan—former

CSP (9) Mr. Nurul Islam—

IPGMR (10) Dr. Muhammad

Yunus—M.D. Grameen Bank (11)

Dr. M.K.U. Molla—Prof. of His-

tory Rajshahi University (12) Mr.

Abdul Muid Chowdhury Com-

misioner of Chittagong Division

(13) Principal Chittagong Com-

merce College (14) Principal—

Hathazari College (15) Mr. Fazlul

Huq—Registered Graduate. Mr.

Abdur Rashid Registrar of the

University is the Secretary of

the Syndicate.

The Deans.

The Deans of four faculties

now are (1) Prof. Ali Emdad

Khan—Commerce (2) Prof. Anu-

pam Sen—Social Science (3) Prof.

Rafiuddin Ahmed—Arts and (4)

Prof. Nurul Islam—Science Prof.

Ali Emdad Khan is the senior

Dean Mr. G.M. Latif Khan is the

Controller of Examinations and

Mr. Anisur Rahman is the Con-

troller of Accounts.

No Convocation so far.

It is unfortunate to note that

since its inception Chittagong

University had no convocation

the most sacred ceremony of a

University. A special and short

convocation was arranged in

January 1981 to confer a hono-

rary doctorate Degree To Prof.

Abdus Salam a noble Laureate in

Physics. But so far as the pas-

sed out students of this Univer-

sity is concerned it is not known

when they will have their first

convocation.

Promise for the Future.

Chittagong University judged

by other universities by at least

one year. In this is quite an achie-

vement of political violence and na-

tional unrest. But for the commun-

ism its achievements could have

been far greater. Lack of fund

is also a big problem developing

University like this. With little

attention from the Government

and business community of Chittag-

ong this University would not

only develop much faster but

will play its role more positively

particularly in these days of

crisis with mounting pressure

on education expansion. Existing

facilities in all the universi-

ties is a must and the Govern-

ment must take a note.

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