

BRIEF HISTORY: The University of Chittagong, situated about 12 miles north off the Port City of Chittagong, was inaugurated on November 11, 1968 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. Mohiuddin 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. Jajaluddin (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 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 1968. Soon after Prof. Mallick was appointed the first Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University and remained in that position

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—Hayat Hussain

till before he crossed the border to India in the initial stage of the Liberation War of 1971. In 1966, the University started with only four departments and two hundred students. These Departments were Bengali, English, Economics and History, all of them being under the faculty of Arts. In order to discourage politics and make it a model University (?) the Government not only chose a far-off place but also made sure that the new University is started with their trusted persons. Prof. Ali Ahsan the translator of President Ayub Khan's "Friends not Masters" was the first Head of the Department of Bengali (though he came

sity. These are Law, Medicine and Engineering. The University has two institutes located on the campus namely the Institute of Marine Science and the Institute of Forestry.

At present the number of students at Chittagong University is approximately 6000 and of teachers roughly 300. The number of residential Halls for the students now is six including one for the girls. These are Alaol Hall, Sir A.F. Rahman Hall, Shahjalal Hall, Shah Amanat Hall, Surawardhy Hall and Shamsunnahar Hall. Chittagong University has 93 affiliated Colleges of which 78 are Degree colleges, four Law

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 brave people but in the face of advancing enemies they did not offer any resistance.

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



Shamsunnahar Hall.

a little later). Dr. Abdul Karim in History Dr. S.A. Athar in Economics and Prof. Muhammad Ali in English. Prof. Muhammad Ali, the youngest of them, who came from Rajshahi University, was also the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts, the only Faculty at that time and Dr. Abdul Karim who came from Dhaka University, Provost of Alaol Hall, also the only Hall 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 University 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.

Non-academic Depts. 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

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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) Abdul Rob who was a student of M.A. 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 Abdul 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 Mur-taza Bashir.

The other Vice-Chancellors. After Prof. Azizur Rahman

Mallick the other Vice-Chancellors of Chittagong University were Dr. Innas Ali (1971-73), Prof. Abul Faza (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

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University which sits at least once a month and which has to approve all decisions of the University. Teacher-members of Syndicate are elected by the teachers while others are nominated by the Senate Academic Council and the Government.

At present the member of Chittagong University Syndicate are Prof. Muhammad Ali—Vice-Chancellor (2) Prof. Ali Emdad Khan—Dean (3) Prof. R.I. Chowdhury—Professor (4) Mr. Abdul Mannan—Associate Professor (5) Mr. Hayat Hussain—Assistant Professor (6) Md. Alauddin—Lecturer (7) Justice Abdul Quddus—Law Secretary (8) A.K.M. Ahsan—former CSP (9) Mr. Nurul Islam—CPMR (10) Dr. Muhammad Yunus—M.D. Grameen Bank (11) Dr. M.K.U. Molla—Prof. of History Rajshahi University (12) Mr. Abdul Muiz Chowdhury—Commissioner of Chittagong Division (13) Principal Chittagong Commerce College (14) Principal—Hathazari College (15) Mr. Fazlul Huq—Registered Graduate. Mr. Abdul 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. Anupam 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 Controller 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 honorary doctorate Degree To Prof. Abdus Salam a noble Laureat in Physics. But so far as the passed out students of this University is concerned it is not known when they will have their first convocation.

Promise for the Future.

Chittagong University judged by the academic years is ahead of other universities by at least one year. This is quite an achievement in these turbulent days of political violence and national unrest. But for the communication and accommodation problems its achievements could have been far greater. Lack of fund is also a big problem particularly for a new and developing University like this. With little more attention from the Government and patronisation by the business community of Chittagong this University would not only develop much faster but would also be in a position to play its role more positively. Particularly in these days of crisis with mounting pressure for education expansion of existing facilities in all the universities is a must and the Government must take a note of that.



Meeting of the syndicate, the highest executive body