

## CCC stops construction of school building project

CHITTAGONG, Feb 5:- Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) today stopped the construction work of multi-storied building project of Aparnacharan Girls High School and Krishnakumari Girls High School in the city's Nandankanan area, reports BSS.

Acting mayor of CCC, SM Iqbal Hossain at a press conference today announced the decision of the corporation.

"I had a long discussion with Mayor Alhaj ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury regarding the project and decided to stop the work following the instruction of the

Mayor," SM Iqbal told the press briefing held at the CCC auditorium this morning.

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury is now in Basel, Switzerland to attend a mayoral conference there. The announcement came following protest and wide criticism against the scheme by cross section of people, particularly from some members of the civil society and left- leaning students organizations.

Biplabi Binode Bihari Chowdhury, a legendary figure of anti-British struggle, has taken a rigid stand against the construction

project and observed a day-long hunger strike ignoring his poor health condition in front of hundred year old schools a few days back.

Those who are opposing the CCC's project alleged that the construction of multi-storied school buildings by demolishing the existing ones over such a tapered land with the provision of commercial facilities side by side with academic infrastructures would hamper greatly the overall academic atmosphere and destroy the sanctity of the century-old

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educational institutions.

The acting mayor said the proposed multi-storied building supposed to be used solely for academic purposes and not for any commercial purposes.

The CCC took the project considering the possible risks of the students as the condition of the existing school buildings are dilapidated and also for accommodating more students in the backdrop of serious crisis of quality educational institutions in the port city, SM Iqbal Hossain said.

As per the project layout, the multi-storied building is supposed to have some modern facilities like basement, car parking, auditorium, assembly hall and library, IT village, cultural center, class rooms, teachers common room, administrative offices, indoor sports center, canteen and common rooms for students, he informed the briefing.

SM Iqbal said the CCC among other such local body in the country has only rich heritage in education sector and when Mohiuddin Chowdhury was first elected CCC Mayor in 1994, the organization has earned huge reputation for its contribution in the promotion of education.

Currently 35,688 students from primary to university level have been studying in CCC run- educational institutions.

The acting mayor called upon all to supplement the CCC's efforts for promotion of education rather than creating unnecessary controversy.