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Chittagong Medical
College

Sir,

We, the 1st and 2nd year MBBS students of Chittagong Medical College express our deep concern and frustrations over the acute shortage of teachers in the department of Physiology and Biochemistry, Chittagong Medical College. All the postings and transfers and leaves are controlled by the Director General of Health, Bangladesh, through the local authority at Chittagong Medical College. Repeated protests and appeals to him for a year have failed to produce any positive result, making the academic environment and quality of education worst day by day.

Both the two posts of Associate Professor have fallen vacant for about a year. Prof. Zamiruddin Chowdhury has retired and Prof. Suryya Khanam has been transferred by the Director General of Health without any replacement yet even after a year.

Among the lecturers, two posts have remained vacant for about a year. One Dr. Shawpan Kumar Chowdhury has been on leave for about a year and a half, but no action has yet been taken by the authority. Another Dr. Shah Alam has been withdrawn by D.G., Health without any replacements. Recently, another lecturer, is going to be withdrawn by the Ministry of Health, again without any replacement. So, three posts out of seven lecturers are vacant now.

In the face of this acute shortage of teachers, the teaching of the total 300 1st and 2nd year MBBS students is jeopardised. Each teacher is now compelled to take care of so many students, none as such is getting proper help from them. A huge number of students gather round a single teacher, most of them do not hear what the teacher says do not see what is being demonstrated and are not guided adequately during practical classes. Each and every teacher now takes so many classes that they always remain exhausted. This has

obviously lowered their quality of teaching. The teachers simply do not get the time to get themselves prepared properly for the classes.

In this grave situation, the quality of teaching and standard of education fallen. This institution may lose the recognition of General Medical Council, UK and also as a Medical school under the faculty of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, UK.

We, therefore, hope that appropriate authorities would take immediate steps to recruit adequate number of teachers and help salvage our education.

A student, 2nd year MBBS, Chittagong Medical College.

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