

All 5 dormitories of Ctg Polytech closed for 4 yrs

From Ofiul Hasnat Ruhin

CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: All five dormitories of Chittagong Polytechnic Institute have remained closed for the last four years.

At least 1,500 students, some 300 of them female, have been facing acute accommodation problem as the authorities failed to reopen these hostels for 'lack of initiatives'.

Essential furniture of the hostels have become unusable due to lack of maintenance and the buildings are lying in an abandoned state.

The authorities had ordered the students to vacate five dormitories — Dr Shahidullah Hostel, Nabab Siraj-ud-Dawla Hostel, Surya Sen Hostel, Kazi Nazrul Islam Hostel, and Moazzem Hossain Mithu Female Hostel following clashes between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) on November 20, 1994 that left three killed.

Although classes resumed after eight months of that violence, the authorities did not reopen the dormitories citing various grounds, especially 'security risk'. Later, 85 female students were accommodated in the staff quarters of the Institute and they are living there till date.

But, for the rest there has been no such makeshift arrangement and students are finding it hard to carry on their study at the Institute.

Prof Fariduddin Ahmed, Principal of the Institute, when asked, told The Daily Star, "Reconstruction is required for the reopening the hostels." All the furniture needs to be refurbished, he pointed out.

"We need a lot of money and I've informed the Facilities Department about it. We're waiting for a positive response," said Ahmed adding, they also need more staff and guards to re-open the hostels.

Meanwhile, some student leaders alleged that the authorities and a section of teachers of the Institute were against reopening the dormitories.