

Chittagong

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An apology for a college hostel

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Feb. 10.—The students of Chandpur Mahila College have been suffering badly owing to acute problem of accommodation at the college hostel. Every year a large number of students go disappointed owing to non-availability of seats at the college hostel.

There is no hostel for the college. In 1974 the local administration allotted an abandoned building at a very congested commercial area for hostel purpose. The hostel is an apology for a hostel. It lacks even the minimum amenities. The present hostel building is too old in a dilapidated condition. The roof and the walls have developed cracks and may collapse at any time. The local authorities have declared the building unfit for human habitation. But the students are still living there for want of alternative arrangement. For want of acute space scarcity 10 to 12 girls are living in each of the small rooms in sub-human condition. In such case of the hostel two to three girls are sharing a single bed. The students are compelled to read on bed as there is no space left for placing table-chair in the room.

The Chandpur Mahila College was established in 1964 and is the only girls college of this district. In 1985 the college was nationalised. About 600 stud-

ents are reading in the college upto degree level. In 1970 the college authorities undertook the construction of a modern hostel out of the govt. grant of Taka 5 lakh by the southern side of the college building. The hostel was constructed upto one story level. But the local Ansar authorities claimed the land.

The issue was referred to the court. But finally the court gave verdict in favour of the college. Since then the college authorities trying to get possession of the hostel. But the matter has not yet been solved and as such the girls cannot be shifted from the present worm out abandoned building. The Ansar club is situated just outside the collage building and as such it poses problems in respect of privacy of the students of the college. The problem become more acute whenever Ansars assemble there for training and other purposes.

Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Minister for Post and Tele-Communications very recently visited the present hostel and expressed his shock at the sight of the miserable plight of the resident students. The Minister while addressing girls assured them of solving their hostel problem soon. Mr Matiur Rahman Principal of the college apprised the Minister of various problems of the college.