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LETTERS

Appeal for nationalisation

This is to draw the kind attention of the authorities concerned that Sonargaon Degree College, established in 1969 well reputed long since for its solemn and befitting academic atmosphere, absolutely immune from all polluted political turmoil and for its brilliant results in the examinations of the Board and the university, really deserves special consideration of the Govt. In favour of its conversion into a govt college, in view of the following reasons. a) Sonargaon College is geographically located at a place called Megrapara in the Sonargaon upazila which is not far from the capital city, Dhaka with a distance of 16 miles, only a matter of hardly 45 minutes by bus or much less by mini-bus or car.

It is at a stone's throw from the Maghna Chat. The Grand Trunk road of Sher Shah runs in front of the College. A few steps ahead of the college, an Islamic Mission Cultural Research Centre of

the Islamic Foundation has recently been set up besides of the grave of great Muslim saint ruler Sultan Ghiasuddin Azam Shah. It at once reminds us of the fact that once it had been the universal seat for learning of Islamic ideals and values together with modern science & technology as an Islamic University was set up here by Fakhruddin Mobaraki Shah.

b) Historically, Sonargaon College has been retaining the tradition of a famous place which is important in more than one ways. 1). The capital of Bengal during the reign of well-known ruler Isha Khan. It still bears the testimony to many famous events and episodes. 2). The Museum for Folk Art, established here by Shilpacharya, Zainul Abedin contains the antique relics and remnants projecting men's manners, customs and conventions of our glorious past. 3). It is Sonargaon where many traditional mosques and monuments among others, are still there to the delight pleasure and surprise of the cautious tourists. Throughout the year tourists from all over

the world are visiting these historical spots. c) Sonargaon College is the only college worth mentioning in three Upazilas namely Sonargaon, Gozaria and Bandar. The boys and girls including the Children of the govt, officers and employees of these upazilas can not but enthusiastically pursue their studies here the only college of the area. Besides; because of well-communication, a good number of boys and girls from other districts of the country as well have a liking for this college with a view to continuing their studies uninterruptedly and smoothly. A total of about 1200 (twelve hundred) students is regularly prosecuting their studies in this college. The vast vacant landed property including a number of big ponds under the possession of the college have been left unutilised due to the lack of proper patronage and financial assistance. The local people are mostly poor who despite their sincere intention can hardly come forward to the help of the college for its further development.

The Principal's residence and the professors' boarding

house are there within the college campus. Had it been nationalised earlier, it would have been developed undoubtedly remarkably which is not so now because of lack of initiative on the one hand and monetary fund on the other.

The percentage of pass of the college in the Board & University Examinations is most often much higher than the average percentage given by the Board and the University in the H.S.C. & Degree level respectively. Even at times, the percentage goes much up than that of many of the well-established and well-reputed govt. college's.

'It's really heartening that the govt. of Bangladesh has given much importance to education and declared that very soon a govt. College would be set up in each upazila. Without least shadow of doubt, this is a praiseworthy pragmatic and timely step taken by the govt.

In view of the circumstances stated above, we do earnestly and fervently hope and wish that the authorities concerned would be gracious enough to nationalise Sonargaon College with an immediate effect in the greater interest of education of the Children of the poor people of a vast locality who can hardly afford to send their wards to study in any far off college.

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