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Housing problem at CU takes ever-bad shape

CU Correspondent

CHITTAGON, May 21:—Nearly three thousand new entrants (Session of 2007-2008) at Chittagong University (CU) have reportedly been suffering much for want of accommodation at the dorms and the off-campus messes.

Abrupt rise of mess rent, subsistence costs mainly in the wake of biggest ever price inflation backed by the obsolete accommodation policy of the university have thrown the higher education enthusiasts into untold misery.

The accommodation policy of the university does not allow the new entrants to become resident student on the ground of scanty seat at the dorms.

Although the first half of the beginning year of the session 2007-2008 is about to over, many students still in search of suitable residential accommodations on the campus or off-campus.

Dominance of fundamentalist forces is again a big problem for the newcomers most of whom knowingly or unknowingly become the scapegoats of imperialistic dominance and stay at the dorms like refugee.

Approximately seven of the every ten students of the university come from other districts and even from the farthest northern region. Majority of the new entrants have no local contact for instant shelter.

"My appeal for an accommodation at any of the gents dorms went useless as the dorm man-

agement straight way rejected it," Mohammad Yachin Haidar, a fresher from Kishorgonj, told this reporter.

Maisum Maliha Munni who came from Jessore, had to look for a safe shelter at one of her relation after failing to have an accommodation at the ladies dorm.

Though the existing dorm rules do not permit accommodation beyond the seat capacity of the dorms, the Islami Chatra Shbir (ICS), student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, has made crowding of people at the rooms a custom.

"We've sympathy for the fresher, but we don't want students to cram into rooms in an unhygienic condition." Provost of a dormitory justified the scenario.

Meanwhile, a number of teachers and students blamed the university management for remaining indifferent to the crisis prevailing, as CU management could not take any step to removing accommodation crisis.

They also said that as CU authority did not take any measure over the decades, the problem grew higher and turned unmanageable. Allocation for building new dorms has not been made even by the military backed caretaker government over its two years rule.

Vice Chancellor Professor M Badiul Alam said that it had not been made a residential university. Therefore residential facility for all students is not possible.