

CMC in grip of acute teacher shortage

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AROUND 50 per cent of teachers' posts at Chittagong Medical College have remained vacant for years, seriously hampering the academic life of the students.

According to official sources, 98 posts are still vacant against the 210 approved positions for teachers, including professors, associate professors, assistant professors, lecturers and consultants in 35 departments of CMC where around 2,100 students are studying, causing severe disruption in routine classes and practical works.

Besides, post-mortem activities in the college hospital are also being hampered as a good number of posts in forensic department are also vacant.

CMC principal Professor Selim Mohammad Jahangir said academic activities were being hampered due to shortage of teachers while the ana-

tomical activities of forensic services were also affected due to the shortage.

He told New Age, 'We have applied to the Directorate General of Health Services as well as to the health ministry for several times seeking a solution to the problem. We have also send demand letter to the authorities concerned for at least three times every year, but they have not responded yet.'

CMC have 41 posts for professor, but there are 24 professors while against 50 posts there are only 34 associate professors.

Of the 84 posts for the assistant professors, there are only 54 teachers and the scenario is quite the same with the positions of lecturer.

The shortage is most acute at seven departments of the college -- department of anatomy, department of physiology, department of forensic medicine, department of cardiac surgery, depart-

ment of oncology, department of imaging and radiology and department of anesthesiology, said the principal.

The anatomy department is running with only one professor, where around 570 students are studying under different courses, added Professor Selim Mohammad Jahangir.

Abdul Awal, a third year student of anatomy department, told New Age, 'We are helpless. We have only one regular teacher and we attend classes under guest teachers, who are not experienced in our subject.'

Samiya Khan, a fourth year student, also expressed her frustration saying, 'This is unbelievable indeed. We have an acute shortage of teachers, which is severely hampering our academic activities.'

Other students also shared the same views with this correspondent and urged the authorities concerned to solve the crisis immediately.