

১৪

Jhalakati Mahila College beset with problems

Mahmood Alam

Most of the country's non-government women's colleges are being run in an unhealthy manner. Innumerable problems have engulfed them and put obstacles on their way of expansion.

These colleges are at the headquarters of the new districts and are installed only 3/4 years back. Jhalakathi Mohila College is one of them.

In the morning of the 1st July in 1981 Jhalakathi Mohila College began her formal journey with only seven girls in 1st year H.S.C class housed then at a small semi-pucca building. Now the college has developed in all respects.

Located about 500 yards aloof from the northern bank of the river, "Sugandha" and 40 yards east to the Deputy Commissioner's quarter, the college is beset with a lot of problems which include shortage of fund, class rooms, books in library, furniture, lack of boundary wall, hostel, principal quarter, sports and indoor games facilities, sports fields, well-equipped science library and properly-furnished common room and teachers rooms, etc.

Present student strength of the college is about 300 at the Intermediate level and about 100 in Degree classes while the number of teachers is only 22.

Interesting enough is the fact that the college has only H.S.C affiliation under Jessore Board but it already opened Degree Course without prior permission from the concerned authority of the university.

Prof. Howladar Ansar Ali, Principal of the college while talking to the New Nation as to how they could run Degree course without permission from

Dhaka University said, "We are forced by the local needs to do it as every year many girl students pass H.S.C from this old town but most of them

problems with our Degree students," because we have to make arrangement so that they can sit for exams from other colleges as private examinees".

once called the 2nd-Calcutta for its importance in massive trade and business, is still an uncertain thing due to lack of Govt eagerness and care.

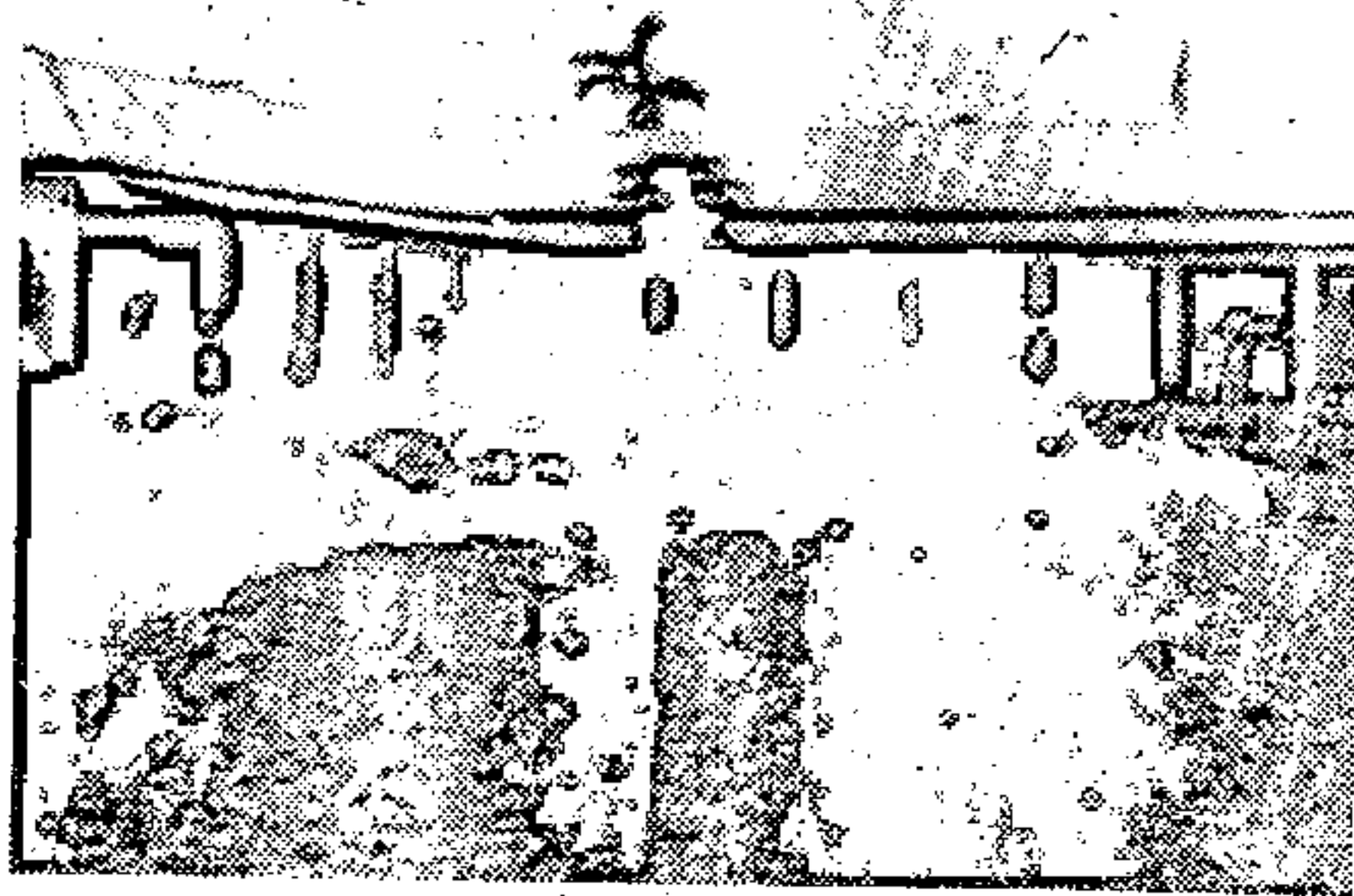
He further said that Jhalakathi is an old river port which came under Pourashava more than a century ago i.e. in 1875. Besides, it is the birth place of the famous poet Jibannanda Das and Kamini Roy. Considering all these, Jhalakathi should have at least a Mohila College but it is an irony of fate in that educational institutions were not expanded as much as commercial establishments grew up here, Mr. Shahjahan added.

Mr. Nirmal Chandra Sarkar, DC of Jhalakathi while talking to this paper, firmly said that the college should be given a good academic look and shape soon since work constructing a boundary wall and a hostel for the students and bachelor teachers would be undertaken at a cost of Tk 5 lakh.

Mr Sarkar expressed the hope that the DU authority would pay special attention to give degree affiliation soon.

The College Inspector of Dhaka University Mr Arshad Ali told the New Nation regarding Jhalakathi Mohila College that he recently inspected the college and found many difficulties in granting affiliation. He said that the college could not fulfill the minimum requirements for upgradation into a Degree college.

However, he admitted that the college standing on an area 3 acres of land at the core of the town can be given Degree affiliation soon.



Partial view of Jhalakathi Mahila College

cannot avail the opportunity of taking graduation or higher education from DU or Barisal.

Principal further backed his argument saying "though the college itself has no right to run Degree classes but we, the learned class, have the sense and right, on humanitarian ground, to teach students at all levels".

He maintained that "we have now applied for affiliation and legalization of our Degree course to DU. We are in many

Partha Sarathi Das, a senior teacher of the college said, that the prime need of the college at this hour is to officially upgrade it from an Intermediate College to a Degree College with a view to equip our women students with higher education and knowledge.

Mr. S.M. Shahjahan, a local social personality and big contributor to the college, also expressed his views in a melancholy tone and said, "A women's college at Jhalakathi which was