

CU facing severe financial crisis

By CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 28: With Tk 10.35 crore deficit in its current budget, Chittagong University has been facing severe financial crisis exerting an all-pervading setback on academic and development activities.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) granted Tk 29.25 crore for expenditures of the University in 1999-2000 fiscal. The amount is inadequate to run the university for a year, officials said.

The university will have to spend Tk 28.51 crore this year to pay the salaries and other allowances of 510 teachers and 1803 employees. During the current fiscal the government allocated Tk 24.42 crore for salaries and allowances leaving a deficit of Tk 4.09 crore for it.

The University needs at least Tk 39.60 crore a year for the smooth running of the institution.

Due to shortage of allocation, the university will face a deficit of Tk 10.35 crore during the current financial year, said officials.

In the transport sector, the University authority spends Tk 22 lakh to clear the bills of the Bangladesh Railway (BR) for the shuttle trains that run between the town and campus to carry the students. But the govern-

ment has granted only Tk 18 lakh for this purpose.

The University also spend Tk 15000 as fare of public buses everyday that ply in the campus to facilitate the movement of students and officials. The authority also spends Tk 62 lakh as fuel expenditure per year for the vehicles. The total need for the maintenance of vehicles is at least Tk 30 lakh per year but the University gets a sanction of only Tk 24 lakh in this regard.

In the past the University had its own earning sources. But the sources have been lost as colleges are no longer under the control of the University.

Talking to this correspondent Dr Siddiqueur Rahman Bhuiyan, Comptroller of Accounts (CA) of the University said, "The university authority has no alternative but to seek urgent grant from the government." He claimed that the 16000 students of the University will be affected if adequate grant is not available to run the university properly.

"The University needs interim grant of two crore taka and emergency financial grants on priority basis need to face the problems," Dr Bhuiyan added.