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# BMA: An Institution With A Difference

By An Observer

**B**ANGLADESH Military Academy (BMA) is the most important seat of military learning in our country. This is the only institution which produces officers for the Army—a profession which has been celebrated and revered throughout the ages.

The Academy was established on January 11, 1974, in Comilla Cantonment. It was shifted to its present location in Bhatia on March 19, 1976. "CHIRO UNNOTO MOMO SHIR" (Ever high is my head) is taken as its motto.

Bangladesh Military Academy is a training institution wherein pre-commission training is imparted to the gentlemen cadets to become future leaders in uniform. The training imparted here, being very hard and strenuous in nature, aims at the all round development of a young cadet. The training is three dimensional in nature, i.e. basic military training, academic training and development of character traits.

Military training conceives a substantial portion of scientific learning process and as such encompasses a syllabus covering basic knowledge about the fundamentals of war and warfare including the physical training. Unlike a civil training institution, a theoretical knowledge in BMA has to be translated into practical action to show their mutual

agreements. Teaching of a subject absurd or impractical in nature does not make a room in the syllabi of military training. Whatever is taught to the Gentlemen Cadets in the class room pertaining to the themes of war or warfare in the form of lectures, central discussions, tutorial discussions, model discussions etc to be shown/taught practically in the field so that the future leaders in uniform are not left with misconception, rather they can see how the theoretical knowledge is applied into practical action. This provides them enthusiasm and search for additional knowledge.

Out-door exercises are the practical ground/situations where the Gentlemen Cadets implement the knowledge taught in the class room. This furnishes a scope of self-evaluation, of self confidence and handling/applying the knowledge in right pursuit. A successful completion of this training helps a Gentleman Cadet become a proud member of Bangladesh Army adopting army as his professional career which accords him the status of a class one government servant and also guarantees him the means of livelihood and the monthly wage for which so much sweat has been spent. This is one side of the picture.

Academic training on the other

plays a dominant role in the whole process. The young cadets are taught in various branches of knowledge to help equip themselves with the fundamentals of the very source of knowledge itself. To derive the desired result of the system, BMA also facilitates a Gentleman Cadet to earn his graduation under the University of Chittagong in either of two disciplines—Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, which would confer on him that rare and sterling identity to claim himself a first class citizen of the country. The pursuit of academic discipline helps widen the horizon of mind, grow genuine aptitude for knowledge undiscovered, change the pattern of visionary zeal and above all, bloom the qualities of a human heart of the Gentlemen Cadets. Thus a cadet is decorated with two costly gems which would ultimately become his pride possessions. This is indeed an achievement of rarity which BMA can only provide.

The development of character traits is done through various discourses pertaining to the training as a whole. Scopes are made open before the cadets either through military training or through their academic training to project character traits which are reflected always through action. Character being the key identity of any human soul,

maximum weightage is given to this aspect of training in BMA. The whole training field is, in fact, the wide range in which a cadet can show the reflection of his character, counselling, guidance, advice and looking into the problems dispassionately help a cadet flourish in the development of his character traits.

Though the Academy promises to impart military training to the young cadets who hope to adopt army as their professional career, yet it has received in its fold some other responsibilities in the recent past. Its responsibility from the view point of a national institution and national need has been spread over training the joint services cadets and orienting the Civil Service Trainee Officers.

Bangladesh Military Academy being the only one of its kind also faithfully fulfils the hopes and aspirations of a growing nation like ours, so far our national defence is concerned. Ours being a national army, the contribution of a national institute like BMA infallibly seems immense and vast. Hence the institute that produces the leaders in uniform has a sacred national stature integrated completely. Our national identity, in fact, merges with the distinctiveness of BMA and this is what makes BMA an institution with a difference.