

Appointment Of College Teachers – BNP Style

Bangladesh Nationalist Party lawmakers are making news almost everyday but for all the wrong reasons. The latest to do so is Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmad elected from Dhaka-9 (Mohammadpur-Dhahmondi) constituency. A lawyer by profession he is considered a heavyweight in the BNP rank. But the problem is when in power few lawmakers know where they must stop and not cross the limit. This BNP leader too is unaware where he should draw the line because like his party colleagues he thinks he is absolutely right and the rest of the world, except his party hierarchy, does not matter. It is this lawyer who, it is known, advised chief election commissioner (CEC) Aziz as against the counsel of then attorney general to go ahead with the preparation of a fresh voter list subsequently declared null and void by the higher court of the country.

This time however his autocratic decision concerned the fate of a private college in his constituency where he is the lord of all he surveys. As the chairman of that institution—Lalmatia College that is, what he has been doing in connection with the appointment of teachers defies reason and norms as well as law. The incident relates to a written test for the candidates held at the college on August 18 last. As many as 10 expert teachers at the university and college levels were invited to take the written test in different subjects on that day. A professor of Dhaka University and an assistant professor of the National University left the college because they were kept waiting without information for the delay. Then other experts covered that the MP himself had set questions and intended to check the answer scripts as well. They protested and this was not to the liking of one of the musclemen of the lawmaker who had no qualm about shoving a teacher out of the room. The rest of the teachers also left in disgust.

On August 25, once again the written test was held under the supervision of the lawmaker. The expert teachers were asked not to appear. It is known that the teachers have decided to inform the National University of the incident in writing. And lo, the lawmaker is doing all this in the name of confidentiality and neutrality in the written test. His Himalayan arrogance has made him so confident in his supreme honesty that he gives a damn to the established rules for appointment of teachers in private colleges and cannot repose faith in the integrity of teachers of educational institutions like the Dhaka University, the National University and the Dhaka College! But does he know or care to know that in the name of confidentiality he has made a casualty of the transparency and accountability of the process?

Already there have been allegations of irregularities in the candidate for teaching job in the English department submitted application on August 17 whereas the last date for submission of application was May 7 last. Then a retired army man's appointment to the position of principal is reportedly in the final stage. This man does not have an appropriate degree nor has he requisite qualification. A case of the vice-principal, a third class in Bachelor degree honours or Masters is a disqualification and accordingly one candidate among a total of 39 having a third class was not issued an interview card but he was issued a card on the day before the interview at the chairman's instruction. Now it is learnt that candidate's name tops the recommended list for appointment. Does it not speak volume