

UGC recruitment policy falls flat

Chittagong Bureau

CHITTAGONG, Jun 14: Management of Chittagong University has allegedly been hiring faculty members without formal need assessment and the prior approval from the University Grants Commission (UGC), regulator of the public and private universities in the country.

In most cases the recruitments are being made on the basis of personal affiliation of the Vice-Chancellor or on political considerations. However, it remains mysterious how the unauthorized culty members are being paid.

Although the university runs regularly on revenue shortfall and always depends heavily on the funds from the University Grants Commission and the students' contributions, wages of this large pool of unapproved teachers have no record.

Neither the pay office nor the top management of the university could tell the exact sources of the funds usually utilized for paying the unapproved faculty members making the university's financial operation questionable.

It is widely believed that the financial allocations earmarked for research, student stipends, students' welfare, provident funds of the staff and purposes relating to qualitative education are being diverted and utilized for paying the unapproved faculties.

As many as 206 faculty members were added to the university's payroll during the tenure of the recently quitted Vice-Chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury, a

great fan of the fundamentalists and the fanatics.

Senior faculty members of the university said that the volume of the recruitment during the period of the just-cut vice-chancellor AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury had broken all previous records of employment at the university.

Despite objections from the university grants commission on indiscriminate hiring of faculties, the vice-chancellor went ahead with his mission to deploy his men all over the university.

According to a research on the demand of faculties at the university and their productivity, approximately 80 percent of the faculty members are seriously underutilized.

The university's ordinance requires a faculty between the status of Lecturer and Assistant Professor to deliver at least 14 lectures a week while the teaching staff in the rank of Professor and Associate Professor 10 and 12 lecture session respectively a week.

Surprisingly enough, none of the current pool of university teaching staff particularly at Chittagong University has scope to make deliberations more than five times a week that again substantiates the research findings.

Taking the advantage of the flexible and comfortable work pattern, most of the CU faculties are either involving themselves in non-academic or commercial research works sponsored by different international donors and

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or not.

UGC

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development organizations becoming the part-time teacher of different private universities.

Dr. M Badiul Alam, who became the Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University in February this year had been the aggressive opponent of the indiscriminate hiring of faculties, has finally adopted the policy of his predecessor. He