

Irregularities In BOU

Sir,

The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) set up with financial assistance from donor and multilateral agencies, is passing through a delicate phase. Since its establishment, the university has started its activities without following formal rules and regulations. The Vice-Chancellor and the Academic Council adopted programmes of education with little respect for procedures. Its administrative authorities were exercised by the Vice-Chancellor, who has since worked as the Project Director for implementation of different phases of work of the Bangladesh Open University.

No one seems to have inquired if the Vice-Chancellor could take necessary administrative steps and ensure implementation of the project. No one wondered, if the officiating Vice-Chancellor, could also be appointed as the full time project director for implementation of different aspects of the project.

The post of the Vice-Chancellor was filled with the professionals drawn from the faculties of the existing universities though the first Vice-Chancellor had the background of working in the atomic energy centre. The Vice-Chancellor implemented different aspects of the programme of the Bangladesh Open University. In doing so, he was not free from prejudices, instead, he utilised them in selection and appointment of officials and faculty members of the university.

A new phase of development appeared in the management of the university, with the induction of the present Vice-Chancellor. The incumbent seems to have his likes and dislikes for one or the other official and faculty-member. He has since promoted the incumbents in the posts of assistant directors to those of deputy directors and directors showing no respect for experience efficiency or seniority of the promote.

The promotion of the Assistant Director (press, publication and distribution) to the rank of Director and that of Deputy Director to the rank of Chief Engineer of the university can be cited as examples of unfair practice and favouritism. Other vacant posts have also been filled, with promotees and that without any formal advertisement for filling the existing vacancies in higher positions.

The promotee Director of press and publication is reported to have transferred a huge amount of budgeted fund to personal accounts and is making payment against fake bills and vouchers on printing charges of books and manuals. More information on mismanagement in the Bangladesh Open University may come out if investigations are conducted by appropriate agencies.

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