

Assault on female student DU probe body finds no proof of sexual harassment

Varsity Correspondent

The Fact Finding Committee over the alleged misbehaviour with a female student by a Dhaka University teacher found no evidence of sexual harassment.

The committee chief Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan submitted its report to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz on Monday.

The report said there was no incident of sexual harassment but the committee found Prof Mesbah Kamal of History Department physically assaulted the student Arifatul Kibria Munni who is working as research assistant at his research organisation.

The committee observed that assaulting a female student was not desirable from a teacher and the incident also tarnished the image of the university teachers. But, the way the incident was protested was not decent, the committee observed.

The university authorities formed the committee last Tuesday "on the basis of some press reports published in different newspapers".

The other members of the committee are acting Proctor Asif Nazrul, Dean of Social Science faculty Prof M Asaduzzaman, Provost of Rokeya Hall Prof Tazmariq SA Islam and Provost

Nasreen Ahmad. The committee was asked to submit report in seven days.

Both Prof Mesbah Kamal and Arifatul Kibria Munni testified before the committee on Saturday. In her written statement, Munni said it was a conspiracy against Prof Kamal. "All the reports were downright false and fabricated. Prof Kamal is my local guardian and I am working with him as a research assistant. He just slapped me for my negligence of some official work," she said.

Prof Kamal said he just slapped the student at an angry moment. But some vested quarters depicted it in a hateful manner. He claimed that some of the ruling party stal-

warts wanted to take revenge as he supported the students' outburst in late July following the police atrocities at Shamsunnahar Hall.

Following the press reports, a group of agitated students brought out processions and set ablaze an effigy of Prof Mesbah Kamal and attempted to ransack his chamber at Arts Building.

But opposition Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and some left-leaning student organisations

Plaques was thick of action as Sami