

Varsity Teachers' Crime

Three teachers of the University of Dhaka have reportedly been accused of sexual crimes. The alleged crimes in question vary from rape of a student to a dirty proposal, and on refusal of the latter, exaction of revenge by bringing a false charge of copying in examination against another student. Already three different committees have been instituted to probe the allegations and at least one of the committees is about to conclude its findings. When the findings of all three committees are made public, we will possibly know the truth. It is too early to hold those teachers blameable for the alleged offences. Also unfair will it be to point accusing fingers at the teachers of the university in general.

However, the accusations are possibly the first of their kinds in the history of the one-time Oxford of the East. Whether the three accused teachers committed the crime or not will be settled in time. The point is it is a pity that DU teachers now stand accused of offences of the most abominable type. After what has happened in Jahangirnagar University, it is no longer impossible to think the unthinkable about even a few of the finest university products, if not all of them. We are shocked at the news. When disbelief starts giving way to suspicion and suspicion to unpalatable truth, there happens an explosive breach of trust. We are in such a state of mind. But even if one of the allegations prove true, the entire nation will be shamed.

Evidences are however fast mounting towards a decline in the ethical standard of even the university teachers of the country, not just of a particular university. The other day there was a news item on two other DU teachers' performance. Instead of producing anything original, those two teachers simply copied books and published them in their names. Irony of all ironies — they received awards for this intellectual piracy and dishonesty.

University teachers are also known to make a lot of compromises unthinkable in the past. Their preoccupation with outside activities — such as consultancy for money — other than their university duty shows that quite a significant number of them do such compromises. We still believe that on account of sexual aberration the three cases are more an exception than a rule. But many of the teachers would not mind being lowered in public estimate on account of their economic engagement elsewhere.

This is how the standard of education at the university level has deteriorated fast. Teachers do not seem to be doing justice to their profession, nor do they seem very keen to defend their reputation. The aura that once surrounded them is disappearing fast for a number reasons some of them extraneous over which they have no control. But when it comes to their own behaviour they have only themselves to blame. Let the teachers strive to restore the respect they once commanded by virtue of their practices rather than preaching.