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En masse recruitment at RU

Tainted with 'political consideration'

AS many as 200 fourth class staff have allegedly been recruited by the Rajshahi University within a span of last three days. Not only that, the motive and the process that have led to their recruitment have been, to say the least, opaque. To top it all, the authorities are set to be planning to recruit yet another 800 within a short period of time. Senior teachers of the university have expressed their concern over the fact that as many as 1500 job seekers thronging the university's administration building on a daily basis is affecting the overall academic atmosphere of the university.

We also note with deep concern, as voiced by a Syndicate member of the university, that the appointments are certain to overshoot the budgetary allocations of the current fiscal year. The University Grants Commission only recently warned the RU authorities of stopping allocation of funds. Even no less than the Treasurer of the University in a letter to the Vice Chancellor expressed his concern saying that already Tk 18 crore has been spent during the first quarter of this fiscal as against the total allocation of Tk 52.04 crore for this fiscal year.

We cannot help being concerned about the developments in the recruitment process at the Rajshahi University. Besides the budgetary factor, also of serious concern is the allegation that the appointments were being mostly made on 'political considerations' of candidates belonging to the student bodies of former ruling coalition. While politicisation of the overall management and administration of our public universities has become a rather regular feature, it must be said that the situation at the Rajshahi University is perhaps one of the worst.

Corruption, material or otherwise, has already infiltrated into every sphere of the society. However, its prevalence in educational institutions is the least desirable.