

Sexual offence DU teacher suspended

By DU Correspondent

Prof. Shahiduzzaman of the Department of International Relations of Dhaka University has been suspended by DU Syndicate for sexually harassing a female student of the university.

The Syndicate took the decision on the basis of an interim report of the fact-finding committee formed on December 7 to investigate the allegation. The committee led by Prof. Shahadat Ali submitted the report on December 17.

This is the first time that a teacher of the university has been sacked for sexual offense, sources said. "We are dealing the issue very seriously," Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury said. "It is a matter of prestige for the

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university."

A female student of the Public Administration filed a complaint with the Vice Chancellor on November 30 alleging that Prof. Shahiduzzaman had sexually harassed her at his room on November 29.

The committee sources said that they received two other similar allegations against Shahiduzzaman - one from a female colleague of Shahiduzzaman and another from a female student of the department.

Prof. Shahiduzzaman, however, denied the allegations and said that he would go to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court for justice. "This is absolutely illegal and a result of a conspiracy against me," he said.

Meanwhile, a section of general students of the Dhaka University under the banner of 'Students Protesting Sexual Harassment' brought out a procession and held a rally at the Aparajo Bangla on DU campus yesterday noon.

Later they besieged the VC office for sometimes and met the VC, Prof. A.K Azad Chowdhury.

They demanded exemplary punishment to the teachers involved in sexual offenses on the campus and inclusion of a female student in the probe committee.

The students urged the VC to form a cell with the female teachers and students of the university for fair investigation of the sexual offenses on the campus.

They would form a human chain on the DU campus tomorrow and observe sit-in strike in front of the VC office on December 24.