

3 JAN 2017
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DU appoints lecturer ignoring ineligibility

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University authorities appointed a lecturer of philosophy who did not fulfill an application condition.

Moreover, they also appointed four more lecturers while two posts were advertised.

The appointee secured GPA 3.19 on a scale of 5.00 in his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exams, while the required minimum was GPA 4.25.

The five lecturers joined the philosophy department Sunday, said Prof Dr Pradip Kumar Roy, chairperson of the department.

The university syndicate, the apex decision making body, finalised their appointment on Tuesday.

Confirming it to The Daily Star, a syndicate member said, "It has now become a common practice of the university to appoint more teachers than the number of advertised posts."

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star, "The selection committee chose more teachers because of the vacant posts at the department."

Asked about the ineligibility of an appointee, he said, "The selection committee, comprising some of the department's teachers, selects them according to their manners, overall performance, and teaching quality. Top scorers are not always good at teaching."

Prof Maksud Kamal, a syndicate member, said the syndicate had the power to appoint more lecturers based on the need of the department.

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"The Coordination and Development (C&D) Committee, which is comprised of one third of the teachers of the department, can recommend appointment of more teachers than the number of posts advertised... C&D also called a candidate for interview who has ineligibility only in one among SSC, HSC, honours and masters exams. So the syndicate passed it."

Some teachers said it was the best practice to appoint as many teachers as mentioned in the job advertisement.

Emeritus Professor Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury told The Daily Star, "In principle, the recruitment should be based on the advertisement; otherwise meritorious students would be deprived because of the delay of the next recruitment. If extra teachers are

needed, further advertisements have to be published. Recruitments should be transparent and beyond controversy."

On October 31, the university appointed three lecturers in the applied chemistry and chemical engineering department, who did not have any master's degree. Moreover, nine teachers including the three were appointed while four posts were advertised that time.