



তারিখ ... 11 AUG 1988 ...
পৃষ্ঠা ... 2-3 ...

It is VC's failure

Dear Editor:

Having gone through the experiences at Dhaka University all these years, and after witnessing the character of the latest closure cum violence at the campus prior to the Eid recess, I am convinced that the Chancellor should seriously consider replacing the present V. C.

The V. C. assumes a lot of self-praise for having expelled several terrorist students a few years ago; but since then, he has done very little, almost nothing to follow up the process with more expulsions of criminals where this was necessary. Instead, he chose a hermit-like policy, pursuing a very selfish skin-saving existence by turning his official residence into a fortress with round the clock police vigilance.

The supporters of expelled terrorists and those expelled continued a reign of terror whenever they found an opportunity, lashing out their vengeance at innocent teachers who have no security of life and yet, who bravely face them unlike the coward V. C. who lacks moral fibre. Lately, when the Treasurer's car was shot at, this was really not a separate event but then it received prominence simply because the Treasurer is important enough.

Those terrorists were stoning and burning cars out there for several weeks now and the V. C. could have taken precautionary steps well in time just as he does in case of his own residence. The V. C. had the Proctor and his staff to act on a pre-emptive footing before the violence could reach any climax.

The closure of the campus, vacating the halls, extending the vacation and postponing the examinations could possibly be avoided. It appears that the V. C. wanted all these to happen as if he was under some spell or a hurry to close down. If the V. C. meant business, why did he not meet the police chiefs, the Home Minister or even the Chancellor, so that the hooligans could be removed with media coverage and a forced closure be avoided?

If the government and the police had offered such neutral help before, then why did the V. C. fail to make any effort to get rid of the terrorists by applying the same moral pressure on the government as he had done before? The V. C.

His way of doing office work is most whimsical, moody and purely of a primitive orientation. Any university teacher could very easily verify my statements' authenticity. Recently, the University Syndicate, which is normally convened at least once every month, was not summoned for almost three months, while many important academic decisions were left undecided, including the appointments of teachers in many Departments.

When Syndicate members reportedly questioned this long delay, the V. C. simply avoided the issue by citing Ramadhan and other flimsy grounds that do not weigh up to any sound reasoning. Any body familiar with the Academic Council could tell how he conducts this august body of senior university teachers. He almost operates the Council like a rural marketplace, pushing through his own pet issues despite objections, while other decisions are forced into the cold storage of endless procrastination.

For example, when it came to the question of post creation in the Bio-Chemistry Department, where his daughter is employed (a well-known controversy), the V. C. approved all the posts gleefully, but when the same issue emerged in case of ten other departments in the next meeting of the Academic Council, the V. C. simply passed them on for future examination by a non-statutory body, known as the Dean's Committee.

Everyone murmured in surprise and someone protested but the V. C. simply got away with his utter discrimination simply because the protests did not matter much to him. As a result, some of the departments just go on suffering indefinitely with shortages until the V. C. may at last give his divine sanction. The extent of neglect is most unbelievable, causing utter frustration and a feeling of disgusted resignation in those departments. The Deans talk about the double standards but that is as far as they can go.

Someone has to do something to save Dhaka University. The V. C. often lacks basic manners and is well-known for his rudeness when he is requested to be polite. His own history of rural culture is easily revealed in his conduct. The Chancellor would

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