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DU Teachers' Strike

Sir,

This refers to a letter by Mr. A.N.M. Zahed, published in this column of your daily on August 18, 1989 under the above caption. I was quite surprised to go through an irrelevant and unfair statement from an ex-government high official regarded in our society for their bright outlook with keen and fair judgement capability. But how strange that this gentleman, having heard some false information from somewhere, could find so much interest in it, and not bothering to enquire into the matter, or rather intentionally, flashed it in the daily newspaper shadowing the images of the teachers of Dhaka University. I believe such writings could never be of any importance for the well-being of a nation or rather such unfair statements can have a serious impact on the morality of a nation.

The statement "the teachers under the Dhaka University Teacher Association (DUTA) have been observing strike in all faculties putting of classes and examinations in all faculties for days together" is absolutely unfair a propaganda. In fact DUTA called on to boycott taking classes only on August 10, 1989, Thursday- a half-working day, even though on that day many of the teachers were engaged in research works with their research students and conducted examinations. In this context, it may be mentioned that earlier, Thursday was a holiday. In recent time, the teachers of DU in order to overcome the session jam, felt it necessary to take classes on this day too.

It is rather shocking that at the time when the teachers of DU are working days and nights, taking even extra classes along with classes of parallel batches, not even taking the schedule summer holidays, just to overcome a heavy session jam created over the years and when some achievements already could be made, at that moment, Mr. A.N.M. Zahed has given such a statement.

The Ex-Deputy Secretary Mr. A.N.M. Zahed has mentioned that he knows a case of the appointment of an Associate Professor as the Chairman of the Department of Economics in Janhangirnagar University. Well, does this statement carry any sense or what relation does it have with the case concerned? Here the question is not of posts (Associate Professor or Professor) but of seniority in service. According to the Dhaka University Ordinance, even an Assistant Professor could be the chairman of a department if only, it is his turn in service seniority. And please try to understand that DUTA has been endeavouring to establish the 1973-Ordinance and not against it, as Mr. A.N.M. Zahed meant to say.

The countrymen should try to feel that till now the teachers of the Universities are deprived of many facilities. About 60 percent of the teachers of DU do not have the university accommodations or even the transport facilities. Recently the honourable President has well said that a Government high official enjoys a monthly benefit of 60-70 thousand Taka. On the other hand, a teacher of Dhaka University with a strong academic background and having in major cases the degree of Ph.D., who being appointed here as a lecturer, enjoys a total benefit of about Taka 4,000 only or even less. Even then, almost every teacher is working sincerely in the greater interest of the country. But it is unfortunate that a Government high official, after enjoying so much of the national wealth, gives such unfair statements against the teachers of this university.

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