



Chinks in Dhaka Varsity

By JAGLUL ALAM

Grouping among the teachers, corruption, nepotism, favoritism and other irregularities inside the University of Dhaka are jeopardizing the academic atmosphere in the institution.

The faculty in the university are divided into three distinct groups and are at loggerhead with one another. They are now engaged in vilifying their counterparts while almost all outstanding academic and administrative problems remain unattended.

Dhaka University has now 10 faculties and seven institutes covering 36 departments to teach about 24 thousand students. The number of teachers in the university is 1,153.

But among them more than 11 percent, about 132 teachers, are on leave for higher education or on deputation elsewhere.

They include 7 professors, 16 associate professors, 52 assistant professors and 57 lecturers. In the absence of these teachers many of the departments are facing problems.

In the Pharmacy Department all the seven lecturers are on leave while all the four lecturers in the Public Administration Department are also on leave. Seven out of 10 lecturers in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication are also on leave.

Lately, some alleged misdeeds and irregularities of a group in DU became evident and have caused dissatisfaction among the teachers.

Meanwhile, a so-called Pink Panel of the teachers

divided into two separate factions supporting and opposing Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan.

As a result, the Blue Panel, in collaboration with a faction of the Pink Panel started a campaign against the Vice Chancellor and his associates.

On August 20, 1987 a booklet was published narrating 37 allegations against the DU administration including misappropriation of university funds, misuse of power, favoritism, irregular appointments and promotions, mismanagement, and creating disappointment and dissatisfaction among the faculty and students.

Afterwards, in 1988, some of the teachers deserted the Pink and Blue panels and established a separate panel called the White Panel.

During the Teachers Association elections of 1989 (held on December 21, 1988) the three panels engaged in an open fight.

The Blue Panel accused high-level corruption by the Pink Panel with regard to the program for constructing apartments for the teachers.

On the other hand, the Pink Panel alleged that the Blue Panel was hindering all the developing activities taken up.

Meanwhile, the Blue Panel appears to have lost the confidence of the faculty.

During the last election to the Academic Council held January 12, five members were elected from the White Panel and only one from the Blue Panel. In the Academic Council election for filling

the seats reserved for the principals and teachers of affiliated colleges, four principals and seven teachers were elected from the White Panel while the Blue Panel did not get a single candidate elected.

Massive irregularities and alleged highhandedness of the university administration in connivance with high administrative authorities were among the reasons of the decline of a section of Pink and Blue Panels, it is commonly alleged.

Even students belonging to both the CSAC and the BNP's student wing, JCD, are critical of the role of the administration—the CSAC covertly and the JCD overtly.

Recently the JCD raised a question of showing the accounts of the 10 million taka student benevolent fund deposited since 1982 which they allege is being mismanaged.

Recently, the Blue Panel has again divided into two groups. One of the groups led by Dr. Mohabbat Khan, the treasurer of Dhaka University Teachers Association, is sharply critical of the acts and deeds of the Vice Chancellor, while the other group is supposed to have a "soft attitude" for the VC.

It is learnt that the Teachers Association has already formed an enquiry committee to probe into matters relating to the irregularities allegedly done by the university administration. The committee headed by Dr. Mohabbat Khan has yet to submit its report.