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Change Of VC At Open University

Reportedly, the change of Vice-Chancellor of the Open University has raised questions mainly over how the ADB (Asian Development Bank) project would be worked out on time. The present Vice-Chancellor, has been running the project since 1992, when it was launched. About seven thousand students so far have been on its roll and the programmes run by the university through the electronic media are acknowledged to be one of the best in the country as a teaching medium outside the formal one offered by the existing universities.

Our own assessment of the Open University education programmes put up by BTV in special is that it is performing very well as a non-formal means of education for a country like Bangladesh where an overwhelming number of boys and girls are denied the opportunity of formal admission to the traditional universities.

More to the point is the fact that the project is financed by the Asian Development Bank to the extent of 81 per cent of the expenses involved. It is a four-year project to be completed by the middle of 1998. Any change in the administration of it at this stage is likely to disrupt the programme and the ADB has said in a press release on Tuesday that it does not like it (the change) and hinted at problems being created by the proposed change of command of the university, for which they will not be responsible.

We share the views expressed by the ADB and urge the government to allow the incumbent VC not only to stay in his post till the project is completed—but also to continue considering the success with which the institution has been run so far, not to mention the high credentials of the man who has run it.

Wise Words :.....

Talent alone cannot make a writer. There must be a man behind the book.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson