



The Holiday

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জরি 21 APR 1989

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Happenings at Ctg. Varsity

Dear Editor:

A strong resentment has recently developed among the students and teachers of Chittagong University over the irregularities, mismanagement and high-handed policies of the acting Vice-Chancellor. It is to be reported here that after the resignation of the elected VC Professor Mohammad Ali towards the end of April, 1988, Government has appointed Dr. Alamgir Mohd. Serajuddin to work as the acting VC for the interim period.

But his appointment, bypassing the sitting Pro-VC, had immediately been criticized by the then CUTA (Chittagong University Teacher's Association) and the FBUTA (Federation of Bangladesh University Teacher's Association) as the violation of normal practice and convention.

In their newspaper statements, the association leaders apprehended that with such an appointment, situation on the campus would further deteriorate (The daily Sangbad, May 25, 1988 and the Bangladesh Observer, May 31, 1988). Moreover, it has been reported that Dr. Alamgir, a professor of history, has been censured twice by the University Syndicate for misconduct and an enquiry is on against his Urdu speaking wife's examination scandal (For details, see the weekly HOLIDAY, January 20, 1989).

So, being a very controversial man on the campus, Dr. Alamgir's appointment as the acting VC of C.U. has surprised many. The Local Police report regarding Professor Alamgir is also known to be not satisfactory.

According to established norms and convention, if the vacancy of the office of the VC is created owing to the death or resignation of the office

holder, it is to be filled up within 120 days. A temporary VC is appointed, whose main responsibility is to call the Senate meeting in order to elect a three member panel of VCs from which the Chancellor appoints one for a period of four years.

This has happened in the cases of Dhaka and Jahangirnagar Universities. But this tradition has not been followed at Chittagong University. One year has already elapsed, since the acting VC took over charge, but no attempt has yet been made to call the Senate meeting for choosing a permanent VC. This has caused serious resentment on the campus.

On the other hand, the term of the elected VC is going to expire on the 18th of April, 1988. If the acting VC again defaults to call the Senate meeting within this time, the Senators are reported to have made up their mind to call the requisition meeting of the Senate for electing the VC's panel.

In that case, it would be embarrassing not only for the acting VC, but also for the government, which had appointed him. It is said that the acting VC is contemplating to dissolve the present Senate in which he doesn't command the majority support. After the completion of its four years term, which is going to expire in October, 1989, the acting VC is reported to have a plan to re-organize it with his own supporters.

It is alleged that, influenced by a political coterie, the acting VC is delaying the CACSU (Chittagong University Central Student's Union) election, which like other Universities in Bangladesh was scheduled to be held before the long Ramadan and summer vacation. He is reported to be maintaining a

close link with the armed occupants who stormed the students dormitories of C.U. in January, 1987 and ransacked 500 rooms, causing damage of more than two million taka.

The armed occupants of Chittagong University are reported to have recently been organized under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Shamaj (JCS), by an ex-cabinet minister from Chittagong, who is planning to float a new political party of which JCS would be a front organization.

The acting VC is reported to have stopped implementing a Syndicate decision regarding the establishment of a World Bank sponsored Institute of Forestry Project at C.U. campus and instigating a particular student group in this effort; practising regionalism and communalism in appointment and promotion of teachers and officers (The Daily Sangbad, March 31 and April 10, 1989); stopped the construction of shahid Abdur Rob Hall (a dormitory for male students to be constructed at a cost of Tk. Five Crore); and purchased two new cars for himself at the cost of Tk 16 lakhs, violating the financial rules and audit objections etc.

The Central Students Action Committee (CSAC) has already demanded the removal of the acting VC (The Daily Sangbad, May 25, 1988). Observers believe that if there is any further delay in appointing a neutral academician as the permanent VC of Chittagong Varsity, the deteriorating situation of the campus would rapidly go beyond control.

Yours sincerely,

A Teacher
C.U.

Chittagong.