



VIEWPOINT

Every week in this column, **VIEWPOINT**, we print opinions of our readers on subjects which we feel are of popular interest and concern. The opinions, however, do not always coincide with those of **HOLIDAY**'s.

DU plagued with irregularities

By A Correspondent

The letter written by the chief executive of Dhaka University to the present and former members of the Senate and a large number of other persons on the 25th May bears ample testimony to the clumsy way the administration of this great seat of learning is being run to-day.

The story began in mid-April when a delegation of teachers handed him in resolutions of a general meeting of the teachers' association urging upon the Vice-Chancellor to scrutinize the voters' list of the registered graduates before election could be held for senate-membership from among them and to convene the annual meeting of the senate.

The Vice-Chancellor, promptly acting on the first suggestion, called a Syndicate meeting and got a committee constituted to scrutinize the allegedly faulty, and illegally made registered "graduates" voters' list but has remained silent over the second demand of convening a senate-meeting.

Since 3 weeks' notice is a legal requirement for budget meeting of the senate to be called and since the year is coming to a close eleven teacher representatives on the Senate, prominent among whom are Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Professor Moniruzzaman Mia, Professor Iazuddin Ahmed and Professor

Harun-or-Rashid gave a statement to the press on the 25th May calling upon the Vice-Chancellor to convene the annual meeting of the Senate.

For them the Senate, which is the most important policy formulating body of the University, symbolises the autonomy of the University. Last year the senate meeting could not be held because of injunction from the court consequent upon inept handling of the situation on the campus.

In the welter of confusion that followed some distinguished members of the parliament had to leave the University arena without being able to attend the meeting of the senate. Some of the leading teachers, who gave a statement to the press recently when contacted, told this correspondent that they were smelling a rat in the whole thing and the University administration on some pretext or the other may by-pass the session of the senate again this year and get away with it. Hence the demand.

The Vice-Chancellor in a supposedly rapier thrust has called a meeting on the 5th June to discuss whether the senate could sit without a section of its membership remaining unrepresented.

A run over the letter written in a slipshod style which he has addressed to a large number of persons with or without a representative character,

will convince anybody the utter disregard for norms and practices of the present administration and the inefficiency that has overtaken it upto the neck.

In the first place the University has its own legal apparatus to take care of legal issues. Such delicate matters cannot be solved by a debate wherein more than a hundred people will take part. Secondly, to the meeting announced for the 5th June, The Vice-Chancellor has invited representatives of the registered graduates, although there is none at the moment.

Among the invitees have also been listed the former members of the Senate. Does the Vice-Chancellor want only the former members of the immediate post senate or all the 5 senates that have run its course since the 1973-order came into being to attend the meeting?

One Mr. Saifullah, supposedly the President of the Registered graduates' Association (who formed it and how?) also figures among the invitees. One wonders what locus standi all these people have to discuss and take decisions on matters concerning one of the most delicate issues of the University?

On the otherhand, interestingly enough, neither the five honourable members of the parliament nor the chancellors nominees on the senate have been invited to attend

the meeting.

And thirdly although the Syndicate-committee to scrutinize the voters' list consists of 7 members including one convener, Dr. Moniruzzaman Mia's name has been mentioned out of context in the letter which the Vice-Chancellor has sent under his signature to convene the 5th June meeting.

When asked Dr. Mia said "What the respected Vice-Chancellor has in his mind in giving me this singular honour in exclusion of others I cannot figure out. But may be it is just a ploy to tell a particular section of people that I am standing on their way of election. Only time and events will prove that it is farthest from the truth."

Elected representatives of the teachers are not likely to attend the 5th June meeting because people who have no representatives character have been called there and the deliberations will not bear any tangible result.

In this imbroglio, it appears that the whole thing will end in fiasco again this year and there may not be any meeting of the senate.

That however suits the Vice-Chancellors' purpose because he will then be the "monarch of all he surveys" without any of his act being scrutinized. But should such things be allowed to continue in the institution which at one time claimed to be the Oxford of the East?