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DU teachers uphold new VC's appointment

By A Staff Reporter

The appointment of Dr M Moniruzzaman Mia as the new Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University is quite legal under the Dhaka University Order of 1973.

This is the observation of the majority of the teachers who boycotted the requisition meeting held at University Club on Sunday.

The meeting was called by 54 teachers of the university to discuss the legality of the appointment of new Vice-Chancellor. About 140 teachers out of total 1,050 teachers of Dhaka

University attended the meeting with Prof Abdul Jabbar in the chair.

The Chancellor of the Universities appointed Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia as the new Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University on March 23. The post of the Vice-Chancellor fell vacant following the resignation of Prof Abdul Mannan on March 20.

Talking to this reporter at the office of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia said that the controversy raised by some of his colleagues regarding his appointment was tantamount to "treading on a muddy ground". Because, he added, the Chancellor had appointed him under the authority vested by Article 11(2) of the Univer-

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sity Ordinance which itself related to filling up of temporary vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The relevant article laid it down, "where any temporary vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chancellor occurs by reason of leave, illness, resignation or any other cause, the Chancellor shall make such arrangement for carrying on duties of the office of the Vice-Chancellor as he may think fit".

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia mentioned that if the Chancellor thought it fit to appoint him Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, it was entirely within the discretion and authority of the Chancellor.

The appointment is valid until further orders. This implied, the new Vice-Chancellor said, that his appointment would be terminated as and when the Senate met and the Chancellor appointed a Vice-Chancellor under Article 11(1) and not under 11(2) as done this time.

The requisition meeting of 140 teachers however, resolved that the appointment of Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia as Vice-Chancellor against temporary vacancy was a violation of the University Ordinance, 1973,

The meeting called for appropriate measure under Article 11(2) "for carrying on duties of the office of the Vice-Chancellor" by withdrawing the order of appointment of Prof M. Moniruzzaman Mia by April 7.

They also urged the President and Chancellor of Universities to reappoint an "acting" Vice-Chancellor according to article 11(2) of the Dhaka University Ordinance, 1973.

Meanwhile, the University Syndicate in a meeting on March 30 decided to reopen the University on April 7.

The meeting of the Education Environment Council attended by the representatives of all student organisations on March 29 had also assured of all cooperation to the new Vice-Chancellor requesting him to reopen the University soon.

The Vice-Chancellor in a meeting with the Provosts, House Tutors, Assistant House Tutors, Proctor and Assistant Proctors on Sunday also decided to reopen the halls of the university on April 5.

Referring to the steps taken in regard to the reopening of the university, Prof. M. Moniruzzaman Mia told the Times that he had tried to reach a consensus among all relevant quarters in creating a congenial academic atmosphere.

On the morning following his appointment, Prof M Moniruzzaman Mia called on the President, apprised him of the situation prevailing on the campus and requested him to extend necessary government help. The President had assured him of all possible help and cooperation in this regard, the new V.C. said.

The new V.C. has also taken some measures to improve the administration by decentralising power. As a first step towards that, all authorities taken away earlier from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor had been restored and more responsibilities were assigned to the Treasurer.

The Registrar of the University also was instructed to draw up a list of non-statutory functions concentrated in the hands of the Vice-Chancellor so that these could be distributed among relevant offices of the university.

Steps were also taken to convene the Senate meeting soon. The meeting of the Senate was injunction following a case filed by two registered graduates.

The University authorities hoped that the injunction would soon be vacated and the Senate would start its function.