

# A Vice Chancellor who still takes classes.

## Our DU Correspondent

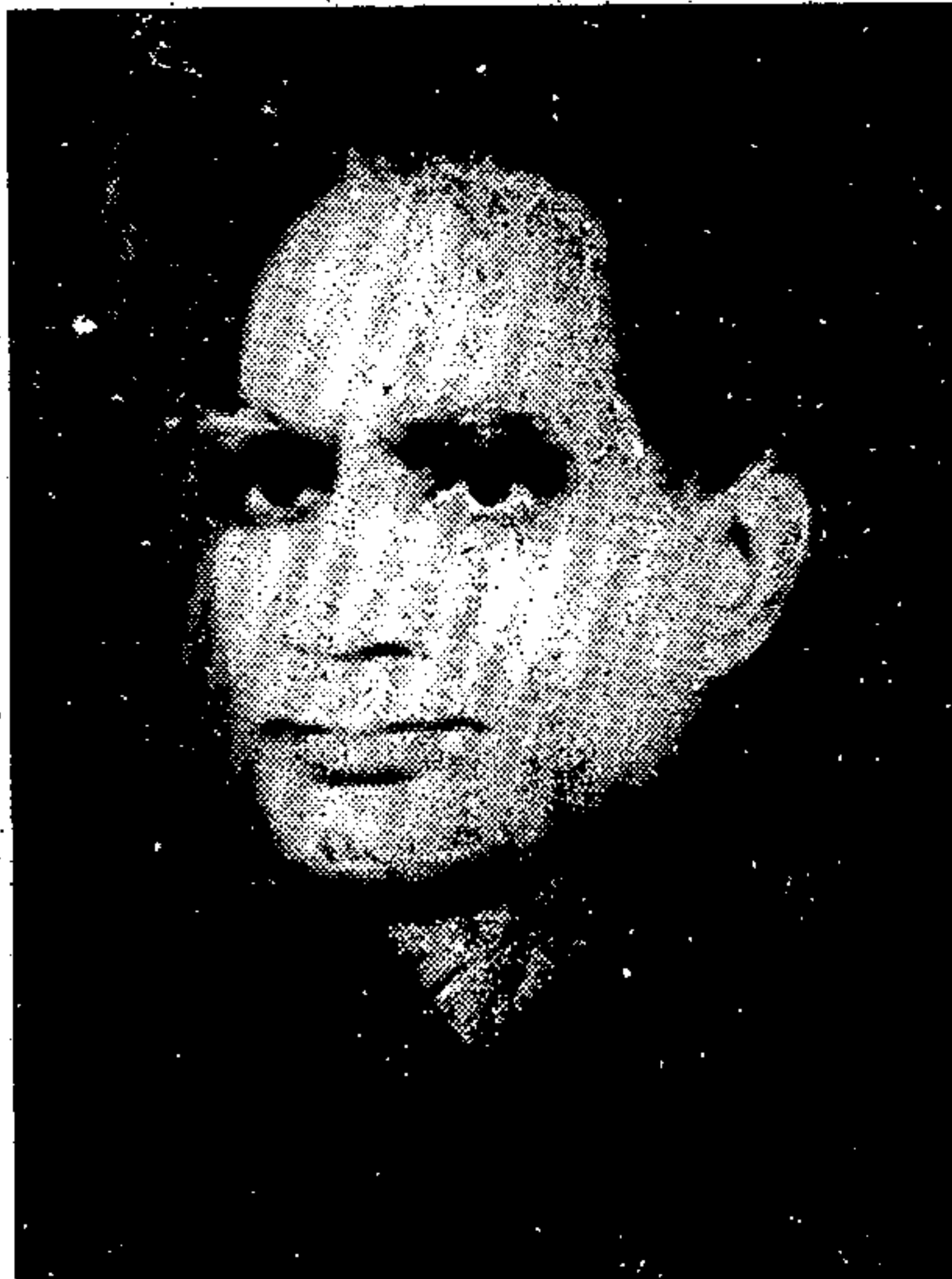
Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah, Vice-Chancellor, University of Dhaka, still takes classes. It sounds incredible. He says, he will continue to do so till he finishes the course of the honours final year batch in Geography.

A soft-spoken man in his mid fifties, Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah leads a very simple life. A bachelor with a lean and thin physique, he never imposes his decision on others but tries to inspire his colleagues in the university to take their own decisions to the best of their judgement.

Prof. Miah, within a very short time after taking over as Vice-chancellor since March, 1990, has already been widely acclaimed by all categories of people—teachers, students, officials in the university.

His achievements have so far been spectacular. successful holding of the Dhaka University Central Students Union elections; and the DU Senate election, which was earlier stalled for two years, have also raised the expectations of all from this man.

The key question that now confronts him is, can he restore



the lost image of Dhaka University, once called 'the Oxford of the east'.

Immediately after taking over the charges as the Vice-chancellor, Prof. Miah took some austerity measures lowering entertainment, fuel, photography and videography costs of the university. He himself handed over to the university central transport pool one of the two private cars so far allowed for full-time use by the Vice-chancellor.

On the fifth day of his assumption of office Prof. Miah redistributed powers to the Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Treasurer, the Registrar, the Director of Accounts, the Controller of Examinations and the Transportation Officer. Their powers were earlier concentrated to the hands of the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor goes to the department of Geography by rickshaw and regularly takes classes of the honours final year batch. He earlier completed his part of the M.Sc. batch's course. Talking to this correspondent he expressed the hope that he would

be able to complete the course of the honours batch. "I would have loved to take more classes, of course time permitting," he said.

Prof. Miah frequently visits the student dormitories-dining rooms, canteens and reading rooms and talks to students individually and in groups. He advises students to come to him with problems with a view to helping solve those. He requests them not to consider the administration as their counterpart any more.

Prof. Miah had issued personal letters to the candidates for the posts of Vice-President and General Secretary of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) from all the student-organisations and requesting them to help peaceful holding of the DUCSU and hall union polls.

The Vice-Chancellor had also issued cards to all the editors of national dailies to ensure their free entrance to polling and vote counting centres.

Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Miah managed to hold the annual budget session of the university Senate after two years. Senate

sessions could not be held for two consecutive years for an ad-interim injunction issued by the court. Budgets of those two years had to be prepared without the approval of the Senate.

Born in Murshidabad, India, on May 1, 1935, Prof. Miah did his M.Sc in Geography from Rajshahi University in 1957. He started his career as a lecturer in Geography at the Jagannath College Dhaka in 1958, and joined Dhaka University in 1966.

Prof. Miah did his PhD from France. He has a number of publications. He took part in various seminars on quaternary morphology, environment and water resources development at home and abroad.

He is the author of Floods in Bangladesh (1988), co-editor of Bangladesh in Maps (1982).

Prof. Miah was the dean of science faculty of DU for two terms and elected member of the Syndicate and the Senate for several terms. He is also a member of the senates of Rajshahi and Jahangirnagar universities.

Prof. Miah is associated with many local and foreign organisations and research institutions. Currently he is associated with two studies relating to regional cooperation in South Asia in water resources and sea resources under the sponsorship of the Committee on Studies for Cooperation in Development (CSCD) in South Asia.