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Ulster varsity

Fate of 25 students uncertain

The fate of 25 students from various government ministries and departments for MA degree at the University of Ulster in Ireland under a project of the Ministry of Finance has become uncertain following termination of the project in June 2002, reports UNB.

The students completed their certificate stage but as no provision was kept for continuation of their course after the project, they could not attend the diploma stage, which was slotted for June-September 2002. There is no scope now for submission of their dissertations for the MA degree.

A total of 4 batches had been nominated by the government for doing MA in Government Financial Management at the University of Ulster under the RIBEC (Reforms in Budgeting and Expenditure Control) project of the Ministry of Finance.

Of them, the first 3 batches could complete the course. Special arrangements were, however, made for the 3rd batch for completion of their dissertation phase at Ulster.

It may be pointed out here that with 25 students from 5 cadres of Bangladesh Civil Service, this fourth batch was the largest of the lot and had the highest ever representation from the women (6).

Now, as all the batches were selected through the same process at the Financial Management Academy (FIMA) and chosen on the basis of similar criteria and identical prospect of a Masters degree from the University of Ulster, justice demanded that the 4th batch should also be allowed to complete their Masters degree.

Attention of the Finance Minister as well as the C&AG and DFID authorities has already been drawn to this plight of the 4th batch of Ulster-bound Bangladeshi civil servants.

The RIBEC project was a brainchild of Finance Minister M. Saifur Rahman and the trainees are hoping that their plight would be given due consideration both by him as well as the funding agency, DFID.