

## 350 posts of teachers lying vacant in DU

Varsity Correspondent

The academic activities of Dhaka University--the country's highest seat of learning--are being hampered due to shortage of teachers as nearly 350 posts in different faculties and departments remained vacant for years.

University sources told The Bangladesh Observer that the crisis deepened recently as some 150 teachers who have gone abroad for higher studies are overstaying while 25 others were on deputation to different quasi-government institutions.

While the crisis of shortage in teaching staff continued to persist, the university authorities are yet to take any initiative to resolve the problem, one of the sources said, requesting anonymity.

Presently the number of teachers in the university is 1,128 against its total posts of 1,475. Currently there are 495 Professors against 555 posts and the number of Associate Professors is 219 against 257 posts and Assistant Professors 238 against 361 and Lecturers 146 against 244 posts.

Apart from the permanent posts of teachers, a good number of external part-time teachers have been engaged in the university, but sources said, a good number of sanctioned posts of part-time teachers is also lying vacant.

The sources said the shortage of teachers became acute in the last five years since the introduction of the four-year Honours courses in place of three-year.

Meanwhile, around 350 teachers of Dhaka University take

classes in different private universities and are also working as consultants in different NGOs and business firms.

Students alleged that many of them prefer to give more time to those lucrative jobs, ignoring their main responsibility in the university faculty.

Observers pointed out that such a trend is greatly hampering academic and research activities in the DU campus.

According to sources the university authorities are yet to take any initiative to bring back the teachers who have gone abroad for higher studies and now remained there even after completing their courses.

When the attention of Vice-Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz was drawn to the question of allowing the DU teachers to engage in activities and researches, which are not related to the university, he said, "Teachers of Dhaka University are top scholars of the country, they have potentials to contribute to the development of our country. If they are not allowed to make their contribution, we have to hire foreign specialists. So the work of consultancy by the university teachers is essential in the interest of the nation". But he went on to observe that university teachers should not be fully engaged in outside jobs neglecting their duties in the university.

About filling up the vacant posts of teacher, Prof. Faiz said the process of appointing new teachers is on and a good number of teachers has been recruited.