

DU deans

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departments are, being blatantly influenced," observed Blue Panel convener Prof Harun-or-Rashid.

"The conditions regarding admission were fixed as admission criteria in the seven departments after discussion with different bodies concerned and the matters were unanimously accepted by those bodies," Prof Harun said.

"The threat of boycotting the admission process by a group of White Panel teachers led by Prof Sadrul Amin is clear violation of the 1973 order of the university and direct influence on departments' academic freedom," Prof Harun said. "It was politically motivated."

Noted educationalist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, also the emeritus professor of DU, told The Daily Star if it would be observed as an influence on academic freedom, if any department faces pressure from any group to change their academic decisions.

"As far as I know, the 1973 order of the university authorises departments to fix their requirements for admission; it is their academic rights," he observed.

The Blue Panel teachers also raised questions to the legality of Prof Sadrul's involvement in the probe committee formed to identify vandalism at the VC office. They said they (White Panel) are serving purpose of the vandals ignoring the departments' academic rights.

Prof Sadrul Amin after the deans committee meeting told reporters they have taken the decision to discuss with the departments concerned from the academic point of view.

Asked why the last meeting of the deans committee accepted admission conditions of the seven departments, he said, "It was not approved in the last meeting too; we kept it under observation."

However, VC Prof Faiz earlier told reporters several times that the changes in the admission criteria was finally accepted by the deans committee saying that before the deans committee is was approved in the academic committees of the departments and endorsed in the units' committee.

MADRASA STUDENTS' PROTEST

DU deans to review admission rules of 7 departments

DU CORRESPONDENT

The deans committee of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday decided to review the admission rules for seven departments after discussing the matter with the authorities concerned.

The progressive teachers of the university said the move was taken considering the political interest of the BNP-Jamaat-backed teachers and ignoring the departments' rights.

DU Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz in the wake of admission row over some rules called the emergency meeting following a written request from Arts Faculty Dean Prof Sadrul Amin, also convener of BNP-Jamaat-backed White Panel.

Ten deans of the university -- eight from White Panel and two from progressive teachers' Blue Panel -- took part in the meeting with Prof Faiz in the chair, held at the VC office.

However, chairmen of two of the seven departments yesterday told reporters they would not allow any kind of influence on the academic freedom of their departments. They would rather not admit

freshers in their departments this year, they added.

Earlier on Thursday, pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers asked the VC to convene a meeting of the deans' committee to review the new admission rules, which came under protests of madrasa students. They also threatened to boycott the admission process if the new admission rules were not cancelled.

The ongoing crisis bogged down the university authorities after the departments of economics, English, Bangla, mass communications and journalism, international relations, women and gender studies, and linguistics introduced new prerequisites for freshers' admission.

Meanwhile, progressive teachers of the university known as Blue Panel and Pink Panel at a press conference alleged pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers are putting pressure on university administration to cancel the imposed admission criteria to establish Jamaat-Shibir on the campus.

"This is the very first time in the 87-year history of the university that the academic issues of some

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