

## OVERSTAYING LEAVE, LOAN DEFAULTS

# 109 DU teachers sacked in 24 years

**Sardar Mahabbat Ali**

SOME 73 Dhaka University teachers have not returned to their workplace on completion of higher studies abroad nor have they refunded the money they had borrowed from the university for obtaining higher degrees despite repeated reminders from the authorities.

The teachers, most of them belonging to the science faculty, have defaulted on a total amount of Tk 1.3 crore.

A total of 109 teachers, in-

cluding the 73, have already been sacked for overstaying their study leave. Thirty-six of them have returned the loan but the rest 73 have failed to refund Tk 1,29,63,778.96 they borrowed from the university for study overseas,' vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique told New Age on Sunday.

The teachers went abroad for higher studies between 1980 and 2004.

The amount includes salaries and allowances the teachers drew during their

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 study leave in addition to the loans, he added.

The amount is likely to increase with the exact estimation of the facilities and interest on the loans provided by the university authorities, according to DU officials.

According to the university rules, an eligible teacher can go abroad for higher education with up to four years of study leave. During the study leave, he or she is entitled to receive salary and other allowances from the university.

Sources said the defaulters each had signed a bond before taking the loan that they would pay the money back if they decided to stay abroad.

But 109 teachers did not return to the university in due time and most of them

even did not pay back their loans, said an official at the registrar building. Among them, 36 teachers have refunded Tk 65,36,650 after several notices.

But the rest of the teachers have been hiding and not responding to the notices served by the authorities, the official said.

Among the 73 teachers, eight each are from applied physics and electronics and chemistry departments, six from biochemistry and molecular biology, five from finance and banking, four each from molecular biology, physics and pharmacy, three each from psychology, geography and environment and economics departments.

Also, two teachers each from applied chemistry, law, mass communication and journalism, English, geology,

international relations and accounting departments and from institute of business administration and institute of nutrition and health sciences defaulted on the loans and did not refund the salaries and other allowances drawn during the leave period.

Institute of statistics, research and training professor Ashraf Uddin Ahmad, sociology lecturer Saida Zakiya Hossain, computer science teacher Md Ashrafuzaman and institute of social welfare and research associate professor Md Shamsher Ali are also among the defaulters.

Among the defaulters, molecular biology assistant professor AKM Kamrul Hasan owes Tk 4,83,498 and English associate professor Faiza Sultan Tk 4,71,589 to the university.

Also, more than six teach-

ers have a liability of more than Tk 3 lakh each, documents showed.

When asked, DU treasurer Kamal Uddin Ahmad told New Age that the issue had been discussed in several meetings of the university syndicate.

'We have sent letters to their local addresses and e-mail addresses available with us,' he said.

The VC said that it was unfortunate that the teachers failed to refund the salaries and loans and went into hiding.

'Teachers get the opportunity to go abroad for higher studies with financial support of the university. But it is a shame when they behave irresponsibly,' Arefin said adding that the DU authorities were considering legal action against the defaulters.