

New Ordinance for Private Universities

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IT is learnt from a report published in the daily Star on 16th July 2008 that the Association of Private Universities of Bangladesh protested the proposed Private university ordinance -2008, saying some of the rules in the ordinance will change basic structure of private universities. The private universities are now run based on Private University Act-1992 and its amendment 1998.

I am neither a decision maker, nor a protestor. I am just a victim of the complexities of the ordinance and its amendments. I am interested to know "what type of basic structures does exist in the private universities at the moment"? The university is generally known as an academic institution of higher learning. There are several types of universities in the world such as;

Humboldtian University at which academic freedom pre-

vails

Napoleonic University on which the state has a strong influence

Newman University in which personal development is the central goal The American University in which service to the community is the first priority What category of universities do we have? Can we call them, **Oscillating Universities?**

Can anybody define a university in the context of Bangladesh?

What is the difference between a public and a private university in the country?

Can anybody show me the model of a public or a private university in Bangladesh? Who are serving in the top positions like VC, Pro-VC, Deans, chairmen of departments at private universities? Where they are mainly rooted to? Who are involved in good or bad activities of the private univer-

sities?

Do we really need so many private universities in the country particularly for Dhaka city?

(The number of private university in whole U.K is one and in Australia are only four).

Answers to those questions have become very important when the issues of selling certificates by private universities have come to the notice of the international bodies. We need to understand that the **prestige of the nation is involved** in such activities.

I was appointed as Vice-Chancellor of a private university by order of THE PRESIDENT of the Govt. of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh in January 2003 for a tenure of 04 (four) years. It was the first ICT based university in rural Bangladesh. The university was shut down in 2006 along with other seven universities on report submitted by the inspec-

tion team. Unfortunately, none of the team members was scientifically or technologically qualified. Here is the main gap between reality and responsibility. If the activities of the existing universities are now judged in the same formula, the doors of all the private universities are bound to shut down.

Lessons learnt from the activities of the high powered inspection team is that closure of some universities cannot solve the problems of all the private universities; the problems created by the university authorities, politicians, academics and defective ordinance that are not connected to modern technology like ICT and effective technology in Higher Education must be solved in joint national cooperation and collaboration in peaceful way.