

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

DU teacher sent on forced leave

DU Correspondent

DHAKA University on Saturday sent a teacher on forced leave for an indefinite period following complaints that he subjected female students to sexual harassment.

DU syndicate took the decision against economics department assistant professor Rushad Faridi at a meeting

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chaired by vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique at the Senate Bhaban.

The action followed written complaints from a section of his colleagues.

Syndicate member Mainul Islam said, 'The syndicate took the decision as some economics teachers, also the colleagues of the accused, complained against him and brought the proposal condemning his behaviour from the department academic committee in February this year.'

On July 9, the academic committee recommended for holding the syndicate meeting to address the issue, he added.

A five member probe committee, headed by the pro-vice-chancellor (academic) Nasreen Ahmad, was formed to investigate the allegation.

The committee was asked to submit the report in six weeks.

Rushad Faridi, however, brushed aside the allegations.

He said that he had raised

protests on social networking site Facebook against some of the teachers of the department for not taking classes regularly and the teachers levelled the allegations against him.

'Even the student said to be harassed by him has levelled no allegation against me,' he said.

The syndicate... also formed another committee to probe the allegation that a DU teacher has been illegally holding the chairmanship of a department of a private medical college.

The committee was asked to probe the allegation that DU nutrition and food science institute professor Saidul Arefin has been illegally holding the chairmanship of a department at Shahid Mansur Ali Medical College since May 30, 2006.

The investigating team of the DU institute found him guilty after visiting the medical college. The syndicate asked the probe committee, headed by the pro VC (administration) Shahid Akhtar Hossain to look into the matter, the syndicate sources said.