



The newly appointed DU VC SMA Fayeze addressing at his office after taking over charge on Monday.

## Fayeze takes over as DU-VC

Varsity Correspondent

Professor Syed Muhammad Abul Fayeze assumed the charge of the new Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University on Monday.

President and Chancellor of the university Prof Iajuddin Ahmed gave the appointment, according to Article 11 (2) of the Dhaka University Order, 1973. And Prof SMA Fayeze is the 25th VC of the country's premier university established in 1921.

The university has now resumed its normal activities after having remained closed following a tumultuous situation in late July and it is scheduled to resume classes on October 3.

## Fayeze new DU-VC

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Prof Fayeze's appointment news came to the campus as "welcome gesture" to the teachers, officials, employees and the students — present in the city so far —, who all have been eagerly waiting for a resolution to the prolonged impasse on the campus that hampered academic activities.

"My first duty is to upgrade the university to a world class standard," VC Prof Fayeze told The Bangladesh Observer after receiving the letter of appointment from the Chancellor at noon. He himself felt that his most onerous task would be to restart the suspended academic activities as well as restore peace and order, turn by violence and terrorism.

There were hectic lobbies behind the scene for the coveted post of VC from the government as there were at least three contenders for the most prestigious position of the university. With a resolute mind to see the campus situation improved in the coming days, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday made her choice clear.

The moment he came to take over the charge from acting VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider at the Administrative Building, many of the senior teachers were already there to greet Prof. Fayeze. "I have just joined the team of Dhaka University administration to work together for our beloved university," said a beaming Prof Fayeze attired with light green blazer over maroon shirt.

"You have got the responsibility to restore the lost glory of the university. We all have to work hard to bring back its image somehow tarnished by recent happenings," Dr Ataur Rahman of the Department of Political Science told the spontaneous take-over ceremony. Dean of Social Science Faculty Prof Asaduzzaman said, "The university will hopefully get rid of a gloomy situation with the appointment of a personality of high quality capable of leading the university."

A Professor of Soil, Water and Environment Department, Prof SMA Fayeze held important posts including the provost of Muhsin Hall, dean of Biological Science Faculty and president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association

(DUTA), chairman of Public Service Commission (PSC). He is a direct student of Chancellor and President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed.

The renowned academic taught in different foreign universities and supervised thesis of more than 40 researchers of M Sc, M Phil and Ph D level. He has more than 120 research publications in renowned international journals.

Prof. Fayeze urged all, especially students and guardians to cooperate with the DU administration so that any untoward situation could be tackled in an amicable manner.

"The students are the junior scholars as we are the senior scholars. Our existence is justified by the presence of the students," Prof Fayeze told the Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) members, putting emphasis on the healthy and cordial teacher-student relationship.

The appointment of Prof Fayeze as the Vice Chancellor put an end to the absence of the top leadership of the university since Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury resigned on July 31 in the face of massive students' demonstration centering police attack at Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23. Pro-VC Prof Yusuf Haider was given the additional charge of acting VC.

The then authorities closed the university sine die on July 27. The Yusuf Haider administration fixed September 12 as the date for re-opening the university, but retreated from the decision smelling any kind of reprisal from political fronts. The latest date for resuming the classes is on October 3 and before that, the dormitories will be opened to the students on September 29.