

Dhaka University-- III

The VC tells his story

By JAGLUL ALAM

Both the Dhaka University administration and the representatives of the teachers community have disowned their any responsibility for the present deteriorating situation in the University of Dhaka in administrative and academic matters.

Everyone has underscored the need for coordination among the administration, teachers, employees and students of the university.

But in practice, such coordination is severely absent and all appear to be engaged in kicking dust in the faces of their counterparts.

Several enquiry teams, committees and commissions have so far been appointed to investigate matters relating to the irregularities alleged in the university administration and many of them have also submitted their reports. But tangible actions to smoothen the administration have yet to be taken up.

So far three separate "white papers," and a large number of leaflets, handbills and other documents have been published by various quarters reflecting the irregularities, inside the campus.

It appeared that many of those irregularities were publicized by interested groups as part of their drives to malign their counterparts, whereas no reports were published on many of the other alleged irregularities.

There are high-power committees to look after the university affairs in respect of administration, appointment, development, promotion, granting leave or sanctioning

funds for the teachers and students.

But in most cases the members of those committees appeared to be avoiding their responsibilities, blaming either the higher or lower sanctioning authorities.

The university administration claims that all the acts and deeds done in the university administration are approved or sanctioned by the competent committees and no individual should be made responsible for any allegation raised by various quarters.

On the other hand, the other quarters allege that most of those committees themselves were appointed in an irregular manner with a view to favoring one quarter or another, and although necessary formalities were followed, irregular activities could be regularized at least on paper.

Vice Chancellor Abdul Mannan claimed that after he took over charge the situation in Dhaka University has improved to a great extent and the university campus has been freed from the hands of a section of terrorists.

He said that many of his development efforts were disliked by the vested interest groups and some unsigned documents were published by various quarters only to malign and assassinate his character.

"I requested the appropriate authorities to probe into the matters and necessary inspections and audits were made in this regard. Nobody could unearth any irregularity," he said.

"The teachers are

engaged in groupings and they have become partisans, directly or indirectly. Everybody has the democratic right and privilege to engage in politics. But this should not go beyond the normal democratic values," he asserted.

"I am now observing with concern that many of the teachers are not sincere to their respective duties. Rather they are spreading malice and hatred against the university administration, which is ruining the image of the university. Steps have been taken up to detect them and to resist the undesirable actions of those teachers," he claimed.

Prof. Mannan disowned any association with any political party or group saying that he loved every students irrespective of political beliefs and affiliations.

He clarified that the appointment of his daughter in the Department of Bio-Chemistry and the leave of absence for his son working in the Department of Pharmacy were done in accordance with the provisions of the University Act of 1973, the recommendations of the competent committees and following the normal practices. So there was no question of any irregularity, he said.

"I favored many of the teachers, but those who were beneficiaries of my actions are now propagating against me. I do not bother about anything because I did not take anyone's help to reach my present position," he asserted.