

Prof Mahmud made BUET VC not for fixed tenure

By Mizan Ali

The letter of appointment of Prof Iqbal Mahmud as Vice Chancellor of BUET contained certain provision apparently beyond the existing rules.

Talking to the Daily Star yesterday, Prof Mahmud confirmed that his letter of appointment to the post of VC said, 'The appointment was made for four years or till further order.'

Vice Chancellors of universities are appointed for a fixed tenure of four years.

Asked why did he accept such an appointment letter, Prof Mahmud said, 'I thought this is the standard practice but later found it to be otherwise.'

The VCs of Dhaka Univer-
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Prof Mahmud

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sity, Jahangirnagar University, Shahjalal University of Technology, Sylhet, and Bangladesh Open University told this correspondent that they were appointed for four years. They all answered in the negative when asked whether the appointment letters also contained the words 'four years or till further order.'

Former VC of BUET Prof M Shahjahan, when contacted, said he was appointed for four years each for two terms, but there was no mention of anything like four years or till further order.

The Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University and Jahangirnagar University are governed by the 1973 Universities Act while the rest including BUET are governed by the Presidential Order of 1962.

Appointment to the post of VC is made for four years under both these sets of rules.

The VCs of the universities governed by the 1973 Universities Act are appointed from a three member panel elected by the senates of these universities. In other universities including BUET, VCs are directly appointed by the Chancellor.

The President is the Chancellor of all universities excepting BUET, National University and Bangladesh Open University. The Prime Minister is the Chancellor of these three universities.