

Amendment To 1973 Dhaka University Order

Sir,
There have been discussions within and without the university about the possible amendment to the 1973 Dhaka University Order. Many thought provoking and constructive articles have been published in the newspapers by educators, former vice-chancellors, former administrators, university teachers and others who were at extreme pains to find their alma-mater at such a polarised pitiful state as it is to day.

There were rumours in the past that the government was about to propose amendments to the 1973 University Order. Such rumours were rife till the writing of this letter. The government is misled and misinformed about the matter and the attitude of the general community of teachers

towards the '73 Order. The government was kept in the dark and was kept away from the true picture. The government was discouraged not to take any initiative to amend the historic Order on the assumption that it would not be welcomed by the general community of teachers and that it would be counterproductive.

Hon'ble Education Minister, will be surprised to know, that the overwhelming majority of the Dhaka University teachers favour drastic amendments to the '73 Order. The papers that were sent to him attached to this letter will more than testify to the statement I have just made.

I took an initiative in October 1992 through our Teachers Association (DUTA) to bring amendments to the historic Order. DUTA executive body took up the important matter immediately, discussed it and put the matter for discussion in a general meeting of the DUTA held on 18/11/92. In that meeting after an elaborate discussion on the matter a resolution was taken in favour of bringing amendments to the historic Order. In pursuance of that it was resolved to invite definite proposals from all teachers of the university as to how best to amend the Order. Letters were sent out by DUTA general secretaries on two occasions first on 9/12/92 and again on 4/2/93, seeking definite proposals from the general teachers to amend the Order.

Many good and constructive proposals were submitted by the general body of teachers. The 1993 DUTA Executive Body discussed those proposals and made its own recommendations. Those proposals and recommendations were neatly compiled by Dr. Badrul Alam, the then DUTA General Secretary, who had made a great deal of effort and pain to accomplish the difficult job. He deserves our thanks for the good job he had done.

The proposals and recommendations which were sent for your perusal were due to be discussed and approved in a general meeting of the DUTA. Unfortunately that general meeting was not held in time and finally when the meeting was held in Nov. 1993, the compiled proposals were not discussed rather kept in abeyance on a lame excuse that the time was inopportune, because the then Minister of Education Mr. Jamiruddin Sarker made a statement in the press regarding the possible amendments to the '73 Order. That was the end of any leadership by DUTA to amend the Order. For some strange reasons the DUTA leaders are not abiding by their own resolutions. They are just keeping mum. The undersigned has written many letters to DUTA to pick up the proposals compiled in 1993 and proceed with the unfinished job of amending the '73 order. At the beginning of this year also I wrote a letter to DUTA general secretary urging him to revive the issue, as usual, there was no response from DUTA. I am beginning to lose hope in the DUTA leadership, that is the reason I am writing this letter to you to bring the whole matter upto date so that you have a reasonable grasp of the matter about which I happen to know you are deeply concerned.

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