



# Prof. Mannan will be axed?

By MUSTAFA MOIN

A series of changes may take place in the education sector within a few days.

The changes may take place as a direct consequence of a prolonged rivalry between the teachers of the Political Science Department of Dhaka University in which armed hooligans were called in for brandishing weapons.

Informed sources say that the immediate changes may start with the appointment of a new vice chancellor for Dhaka University. The present vice-chancellor Prof. Abdul Mannan who is now on a tour of the United States and Canada may not come back to his present post.

It is, however, likely that he may be tipped for the post of the chairman of the University Grants Commission. The present chairman may be given a diplomatic assignment abroad.

Sources say that the authorities are not very satisfied the way Prof. Mannan handled the rivalry in the Political Science Department.

The Political Science Department became an issue immediately after the appointment of Dr. Aatur Rahman as the departmental chairman. Dr. Rahman assumed the office March 1 this year.

After assuming the charge, it is widely alleged, he started behaving in a way that antagonized many of his colleagues both senior and junior.

The hitch started from the use of the telephone set inside the chairman's room. Dr Rahman used to keep the room under lock and key in his absence. This caused great inconvenience to the other teachers of the department.

On March 23 teachers of the department held a meeting to find a solution to what they said erratic behavior of their chairman.

The meeting was, however, interrupted by a section of youngmen who, carrying firearms and other lethal weapons, threatened the teachers, saying that none of them would be spared if the meeting adopted any resolution against Aatur Rahman.

This agitated the teachers in general who immediately rushed to the vice chancellor's house and submitted a memorandum demanding a fair trial.

The vice chancellor convened an emergency meeting of the Syndicate to discuss the issue. One Syndicate member later said that they could not handle the issue properly as

Despite repeated requests from the Syndicate Dr. Rahman did not leave the Syndicate meeting. The meeting, however, formed an enquiry committee to probe into the incident and Aatur Rahman was granted forced leave up to April 16.

It was resolved that the committee would submit its report by April 15. The committee, however, failed to submit its report in time and even now the report has not been submitted.

On April 30 the Syndicate decided that pending the submission of the enquiry report Dr. Rahman be allowed to join his department and the faculty.

The decision soon evoked a sharp reaction from different quarters including students and teachers. Workers of different student organizations separately and unitedly went to the vice chancellor and reminded him of the reactions that would follow the joining of Dr. Rahman as the departmental chairman and dean of the faculty.

The teachers argued that till the enquiry report is submitted the university authorities cannot acquit him of his charges and cannot ask him even for the time being to continue his duties.

At last, using Article 12 (3) of the University Ordinance of 1973, the vice chancellor declared that the Syndicate decision be kept in abeyance.

Aatur Rahman has, however, challenged the decision of the vice chancellor and said that Article 12 (3) does not give any scope to allow the vice chancellor to defer the implementation of the Syndicate decision.

The university authorities are now in a very difficult position. The issue that seemed to be a trivial matter by now has taken the dimension of a gigantic problem.

Aatur Rahman had long been under the unfavourable view of many. He says he was not given a fair chance of defense. He says the incidents recently took this dimension only because the quarters opposed to him took advantage of the situation.

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