

8 amendment bills to restructure varsity admn finalised

Eight amendment bills were finalised yesterday aiming at restructuring university administrations with provision for appointing one or more pro-VCs to deal with the onerous task of managing present day campus, reports UNB.

Two MPs of the opposition BNP, however, gave note of dissent on approval to the bills as the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education adop-

ted them in a meeting, official sources said.

The bills had been placed in Parliament earlier by Education Minister ASHK Sadeque and sent to the Standing Committee for a vetting before passage by the House.

Sources said BNP MPs Alamgir Kabir and M Moshir Rahman opposed the amendments that enable the chancellors of the universities to ap-

point more than one pro-Vice-Chancellor for a varsity.

After an elaborate discussion on the amendments, the report on the bills was finalised.

The bills, along with the report, are expected to be placed and passed in the next session of Parliament, sources at the education ministry and parliament secretariat said.

Committee chairman Nurul

Islam Nahid presided over the meeting which was attended by members Education Minister Sadeque, Whip M Abdus Shahid, Prof M Abdul Quddus, Kazi Sirajul Islam, Rawshan Ershad, Alamgir Kabir and M Moshir Rahman.

"It's designed to absorb par-tisan teachers in top rank and highly politicise the highest educational institutions of the country," Moshir Rahman told

UNB after the meeting.

He said the ruling party couldn't provide many university teachers who are highly biased to Awami League and they would be made pro-VC if the bills are passed.

"Isn't the current system of one pro-VC enough? How many teachers university needs for smooth operation? he asked and said his party would oppose the bills in the House.

But Standing Committee Chairman Nurul Islam Nahid MP of ruling Awami League ruled out the apprehensions of the opposition lawmakers, saying it is necessary for the time.

"Numbers of students have increased tremendously in the universities. The number of departments has also increased. Appointment of more than one pro-VC will be helpful for the

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universities," he said dispelling the dissensions.

He said passage of the bills would enable appointment of one or more than one pro-VC necessary for dealing with the campus matters.

Nahid also informed that the 1973 University Order had such provision of appointing more than one, if necessary. It was amended in 1977 making provision of one pro-VC.

The Bills are The Dhaka University (Amendment) Bill 1998, The Jahangirnagar University (Amendment) Bill 1998, The Chittagong University (Amendment) Bill 1998, The Rajshahi University (Amendment) Bill 1998, The Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill 1998, Islamic University (Amendment) Bill 1998, Shahjalal Science and Technology University (Amendment) Bill 1998 and Khulna University (Amendment) Bill 1998.

The Standing meeting also discussed overall situation of the universities, their autonomy, development of education standard and activities of the University Grants Commission.

Meeting sources said both ruling and opposition parliamentarians expressed concern over the university situation, including that prevailing in Dhaka University.

It decided to hold an elaborate discussion on the campus situation in future in a bid to devise effective measures for maintaining strict academic atmosphere in the highest seats of learning.

The meeting, to be held shortly in presence of relevant authorities and experts, will also try to prescribe means for improving standard of university education.

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