



VIEWPOINT

Every week in this column, VIEWPOINT, we print opinions of our readers on subjects which we feel are of popular interest and concern. The opinions, however, do not always coincide with those of HOLIDAY's

Crisis deepening at Ctg. Varsity

By A Correspondent

With the crisis deepening at Chittagong University the government has appointed the senior most dean of the university (commerce faculty), Prof. Ali Imdad Khan the new and the first pro-vice-chancellor of the Chittagong University although his exact power and functions are yet to be assigned by the chancellor.

In the meantime on the 20th day of teachers strike the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mohammad Ali finally met the Teachers Association leaders on Oct. 29 having personally invited them to his chamber to resolve the issues. The discussion did not, however, bear much fruit and along with the old demands of freeing the campus from terrorism, action against miscreants who assaulted or insulted teachers and those staying in different halls with criminal cases and police warrants, the association leaders this time included a new demand of removing the present proctor.

The demand was made on the alleged grounds of his personal and proven involvement in inciting a section of unruly students against some teachers, his

repeated misbehaviour with his colleagues. According to them he also stained the good name of the teaching community by insulting some journalists recently and later seeking public apology.

The Teachers Association, in the meeting with the V.C., gave 12th of November as the deadline for initiating proceedings against the miscreants and terrorists and thereby create a favourable condition for lifting the teacher's strike. The Vice-Chancellor agreed to do his best but the condition obtaining on the campus till the writing of this report does not show or promise any improvement.

On the other hand the armed miscreants occupying the campus brought out a procession opposing the appointment of Prof. Ali Imdad Khan as Pro-V.C. The Vice-Chancellor also accepted a memorandum from them to be forwarded to the Chancellor. As usual, these unruly boys are alleged to be working under the direction of a particular quarter in the university. These boys are also afraid of the fact that in case the present V.C. Prof. Moham-

mad Ali is dislodged or forced to resign the Pro-V.C. will take stern action against the armed miscreants particularly against those who physically assaulted some teachers.

The chances of Prof. Ali's losing the chair are also very much there as he has created too much of problems and complications in the university. Apart from C.U. Teachers Association which twice demanded his resignation, all political and student parties of Bangladesh (both government and opposition), based in Chittagong also demanded the resignation of Vice-Chancellor over the last two years.

It is also reported that the general teachers are very happy over the appointment of Prof. Ali Imdad Khan as Pro-V.C. of Chittagong University. Former President of Chittagong University Teacher's Association, Professor Khan, reportedly, enjoys the support of the overwhelming majority of the teachers and at present out of 45 teacher-representatives elected to the Senate, Syndicate and Academic Council 42 belong to his group.

Prof. Ali has to depend on external support like registered graduates, college principals etc, but as far as internal administration is concerned such support is immaterial. For obvious reasons observers consider Prof. Khan's appointment as Pro-V.C. as a very positive step in the right direction which may help ease the chronic disorder on the campus and restore peace.

The newly appointed Pro-V.C. Prof. Ali Imdad Khan who hails from Dhaka has a long 30 years of teaching record. In 1967 he earned the rare distinction of securing first class first position in B. Com. (Hons) Examination at the famous Leed's University of England. He joined Chittagong University in 1968 and became Professor, Accounting in 1975.

At the time of his appointment as the Pro-V.C. he was an elected member of the Syndicate, Senate and Dean of the Faculty of Commerce.