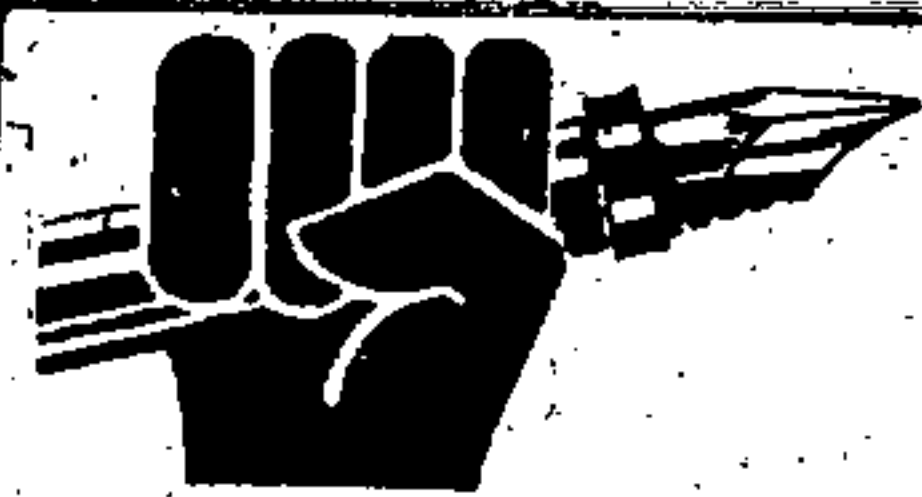


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## VIEWPOINT

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.

# C.U. teachers demand punitive action

By A Correspondent

The Chittagong University Teachers Association is on strike since 10th October '87 and will continue it till student terrorism is completely eradicated from the campus and the culprits who assaulted a number of teachers and a provost of a Hall are punished.

They have also demanded legal action against students who have police warrants against them with specific criminal charges.

According to the association leaders, who took the decision of going on strike in an emergency general meeting on 9th of Oct, the University is practically in a state of siege by one student organisation which opposes the independence of Bangladesh and the culture, heritage and other values of Bengali nationalism.

These students, it is alleged, have gone to the extent of interfering with the class room teachings and also appointment of teachers in the University. They don't allow any discussion on the liberation war or on the Darwin's Theory of Evolution and threaten teachers directly or over telephone who dare to disregard their instructions.

Appointment of teachers must also be done in consultation with them and any teacher candidate with progressive background must be rejected no matter how brilliant he may be. It

is reported that in last May 20 senate and academic council members of Chittagong University sent a written note to the Chancellor in order to draw his attention and such irregularities in the university.

According to the Chittagong University Teachers Association leaders, the most horrifying aspect of the present state of affairs in the University is the insecurity of the teachers, officers and students who believe in the independence of Bangladesh and Bengali culture.

The Chhatra Sangram Parishad at this University being almost non-existent the anti-liberation forces consider the Teachers Association as their most formidable enemy. Apart from a dozen of teachers whom they harassed or assaulted in last one year at present they are mounting a campaign to suspend the present chairman of the management department on some fictitious charges as he is also the president of the Teachers Association.

The previous two presidents of the Chittagong University Teacher's Association were also harassed almost the same way and the rivalry between the Chittagong University Teachers Association and the administration, particularly the Vice-Chancellor is well known.

According to the Chittagong University Teacher's Association leaders, at present there are about two dozens of students, all belonging to one organisation, who have warrants against them on attempt of murder and other charges in connection with the 26th November '86 incident in which one student lost his right arm and many others also seriously injured following a lightning commando style attack on the campus.

The university was closed down for three months after that and in an official press release the Vice-Chancellor categorically admitted that attackers belonged to the student organisation Shibir. He also committed that the University would not be re-opened till the enquiry committee report was submitted and action taken against the offenders.

But almost one year is gone but no report has been submitted and no action taken and the offenders with warrants of arrest against them are well-set on the campus and the university administration is now, reportedly, running under their dictation.

In the meeting of Teacher's Association some Teacher's categorically accused Proctor of the University, of inciting the unruly students against the teachers. Only a week before, the teachers association

lodged a complaint against him to the vice-chancellor demanding drastic action against him for seriously insulting his departmental chairman.

It is also alleged that he abused a number of his colleagues including some of his former teachers in the last two years and yet he has been given the third term of extension as Proctor in last September.

He also apologized to the journalists for misbehaving with them during a senate meeting in the university in last June and it was also reported in the newspapers. It is reported that the vice-chancellor is now trying to reward him with a French scholarship and the process is now in the final stage.

In the meeting the teachers also expressed their surprise to see that while the Govt. has shown so much interest and involvement in flushing out the terrorists from Dhaka University it is so silent about Chittagong University.

According to some of them it is very intriguing. It is alleged that some high-ups close to the Chancellor are obstructing the appointment of a Pro-Vice-Chancellor from the majority group of teachers which is so badly needed for balancing the Chittagong University administration.