



VIEWPOINT

The Holiday

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**.

The agony of Ctg Varsity

By A. Correspondent in Chittagong

It is both painful and unimaginable that in a country which earned its independence only 17 years ago one of its highest seats of learning Chittagong University has gone into the hands of the anti-liberation forces. The campus is now totally in their grip and mercy and everything is done or run according to their wishes.

No other political opinion or organization exists on the campus. Those are banned and their leaders have long been declared persons nongrata inside the campus. They had, however, shown some mercy on some of the Chatra Sangram Parishad leaders by allowing them to take their examinations recently in a temporarily improvised examination center in the University Guest House under heavy police guard.

They were not allowed to take their exams. in the faculty building with other students but were allowed only a few yards inside the campus to the guest house located near the first gate of the university.

Among these leaders, about nine of them, the president of the CU unit of Chatra League (SR) was also there. Last July his terminal exam. was taken in Chittagong city.

Such things only show how deplorable and disgraceful is the state of affairs in the Chittagong University. Most observers and the students and teachers of the university blame the government for this which, according to them, has earmarked this area for one of their behind the screen allies, the Jamat-Shibir forces.

And by now the CU has become such a strong fortress of these fundamentalist forces that from here they are operating and controlling activities in different parts of the country. They sent batches after batches of their trained cadres to Rajsahi and Sylhet during the recent disturbances in these two places.

More alarmingly, they are now sending their men to terrorise the institutions in the sensitive Hill Tracts region also and some of the

incidents of violence were reported in the newspapers.

HOW TO CHANGE

According to some observers nothing short of a change in the Government can change the situation at Chittagong University while some others believe a real change in the university administration, particularly the appointment of a VC from outside the Jamat-Shibir coterie, can greatly improve the situation.

A golden opportunity for such a change came when the former VC, Prof. Mohammad Ali resigned towards the end of April, 1988 and according to normal practice and convention the Pro-VC Prof. Ali Imdad Khan was to take over as the acting VC. The resignation of Prof. Mohammad Ali who totally identified himself with the Jamaat-Shibir circle and almost ruined the university was greeted with a sign of relief by all quarters but they didnot know that a greater shock was awaiting them.

One could hardly imagine that the government could go to the extent of ignoring the Established norms and conventions and appoint another person as acting VC bypassing the sitting Pro-VC only because he is not liked by the fundamentalists.

From the very day Prof. Mohammad Ali resigned Jamat and Shibir started vigorously lobbying for their candidate and they ultimately won.

It was also quite insulting and indecent that a teacher from the same university and junior to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor was appointed acting VC over his head. And what had shocked everybody more at the campus was that the government had to choose a person who was twice censured by the syndicate of the same university for misconduct etc.

As a former Dean the Pro-VC was the chairman of two other enquiry committees one against him and the other against his wife but due to unavoidable circum-

stances, threat of violence, localism and other factors, the committees could not proceed with its work and submit their reports.

The charge against his wife brought by all the teachers of the same Department was that without knowing even a word of Bengali she was examining scripts written in Bengali for a long time.

PAINFUL

The appointment of the VC was too painful for the teachers because they remember with awe and agony the days not long ago when a teacher was openly patronizing terrorism and localism and he started a serious hate campaign against non-local teachers as a result of which many brilliant teachers including Prof. Anisuzzaman of Bengali Dept. left this university.

And at the time of his departure a very filthy leaflet was published against him. It was simply unthinkable that a man of such nature would be entrusted with the responsibility of running a university unless otherwise motivated i.e. to see that the university, higher education and the image of the teaching community should all go down in public estimation.

In fact, soon after this appointment a conspiracy was also started to change the university acts and the then education minister A. I. Mahmud and many parliament members were making statements on this. The minister was, reportedly, being advised by an acting VC to make changes that would suit the Govt. interests including direct appointment of a VC.

The Act was not changed so far but the situation at Chittagong University is changing for the worse every day. As has already been mentioned, it has now become an unassailable Jamaat-Shibir center where no other party exists and the teachers are constantly in fear of a 14th December type of massacre.

The present VC, unlike the previous one, is more intelligently helping the

fundamentalists to consolidate their position. It is reported that the teachers of the university are already worn out after a long drawn out battle with the previous VC, students too terrified, political parties bewildered while two local ministers are helping the fundamentalists in every possible way.

Another report, however, says some students and political parties are thinking of a "Gherao Chittagong University Program" in line with the current anti-Jamat-Shibir upsurge throughout the country.

Although appointed on a temporary basis in last May the present VC has not yet given any senate election for the appointment of a permanent VC. This he has done to take time and secure a majority support from the senate members, particularly from the registered graduates since the teacher-members are against him.

It is indeed, very easy for a sitting VC to win over necessary support to get elected into the VC's panel because the outsiders constitute the majority in the 101 member senate. The VC can also easily influence the college teachers and principals nominated to the senate as they need his favour from time to time. The future of this university however, depends much on the appointment of a new VC having no stigma of the past.

If the Govt. sticks to the policy of choosing a fundamentalist like the present or the previous one then its future is sealed forever. As for the Pro-VC who, with the support of maximum teachers and students, could really do some good to the university it is highly unlikely that the Govt. would ever go for him - since it always favours a tool in such places.

The Govt. has not even done the minimum justice to him. Even one year after his assumption of office the Govt. has not made the ordinance to make him a member of the statutory bodies of the university including the syndicate.

He is practically a man without any work now.