

System of choosing VCs breads decay: DU Treasurer

A lively discussion on "university administration" Saturday heard calls for taking steps to improve the conditions on the campus, conducive to healths growth of education, reports BSS.

Organised by the World University Service (WUS) Bangladesh, a galaxy of senior university teachers took part in the discussion. National Professor Shamsul Huq was the chief guest on the occasion which was presided over by Mr. Amanullah Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University and President of the WUS.

The participants on the key-note paper included Prof. A. Aziz Khan, former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof. Zahurul Huq of the Engineering University, Prof. A.N. Shamsul Huq of Rajshahi University, Prof. Abdul Momin Chowdhury of Dhaka University and Prof. Amirul Islam Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University.

Prof. Mannan disagrees

Presenting the key-note paper at the seminar Professor Abdullah Farooq painted a gloomy picture of

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the "University administration" resulting in an erosion of academic values. But the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Professor Abdul Mannan disagreed with the contents of the paper, saying conditions, existed today could not have been better in the given situation.

Prof. Farooq, Treasurer of Dhaka University, giving his own views on the "University administration", mainly dwelt with the conditions in Dhaka University, with which he has been associated with for many years.

He said administration on the campus was the most important factor running the university as this generally affected all branches of the highest seat of education.

Prof. Farooq listed the present procedures of choosing Vice-Chancellor, maladministration, non-incentives to able persons, allegations of nepotism and corruption as among the factors causing decay in the academic atmosphere.

He said the present system of choosing Vice-Chancellor, the key person in University administration, gave way to soliciting cheap popularity of the teachers and others preventing the scope for the VC to become neutral and strict in running the university affairs.

He opined that the 1973 University Ordinance incorporated 90 per cent of earlier rules and regulations and said rules were not often followed in the efficient running of the affairs. Among others steps, he suggested, to improve the conditions were that the VC should be appointed for one term and preferably not from the university where he worked.

Participating in the discussions, Prof. Abdul Mannan did not agree with many of the observations made in the paper and said no nepotism, corruption and irregularities were done in the university during his tenure and Vice-Chancellor. Check-and-Balance system has now existed without giving scope for such happenings, he said.

But most of the discussants agreed with many of the observations of the key-note speaker and stressed that campus environment could be improved by taking pragmatic steps.

In his speech, National Professor Shamsul Huq said that the universities were the highest seats of education and academic values devoid of terrorism and unhealthy trends must persist there for the greater sake of the nation and future generation.