

## Sexual assault on student DU probing allegation against a teacher

By DU Correspondent

A fact finding committee formed to investigate an alleged sexual assault on a female student by a male Dhaka University teacher started functioning yesterday, sources said.

Vice Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury formed the four-member committee headed by Prof. Shahadat Ali on Sunday following an allegation by some female teachers that a teacher had sexually harassed a student.

The committee has been asked to submit its report

within 15 days. The report will be submitted to the policymaking Syndicate, the VC said.

Committee sources said that a list of the people who would be interrogated and a work plan had been prepared.

One of the committee members, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that such allegation against the same teacher was heard earlier. He said the victim is a student of the Social Science faculty of the university.

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### DU starts probing

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He did not, however, mention the department and identity of the student "for the sake of the investigation".

The teacher however has denied the allegation. "This is absolutely absurd and fabricated," the teacher said, requesting that he not be named.

"What has happened is a family matter and regarding a marriage. It has no relation with the university or the department," he claimed.

"The woman centring whom the allegation was made is a divorcee and mother of a child," he said.

Other members of the fact-finding committee are: AFM Yusuf Haider, Kazi Afroz Jahan Ara and registrar of the university Muhammad Selim.

APB adds: Acting upon a written complaint to the DU Vice-Chancellor on November 30, the vice chancellor constituted the committee and asked to submit its findings as early as possible.

The complainant, a student of M A final year of Public Administration, said that a teacher of International Relations Department molested her in his room on November 29.