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## Unauthorised consultancy DU to showcause teachers

By Abul Kalam Azad

The Dhaka University authorities will serve showcause notice on the teachers engaged in unauthorised consultancy despite repeated instructions to stop such illegal practice which is hampering the academic atmosphere at the university, highly placed sources said.

The action is being taken in the wake of failure to bring back the truant teachers and restore academic discipline at the university, said a top university official.

Over the last few years, the DU authorities made several attempts to stop teachers from taking consultancy but they could neither stop it nor take any action against the teachers.

These attempts were made following the widespread allegations that a good number of university teachers are very reluctant to perform their academic duties because of consultancy work outside the univer-

sity. Some teachers are also doing fulltime service in private institutions, it is alleged.

Showcause notice would be served immediately after making a list of those teachers who are more interested in their consultancy work than their academic duties, said a DU official. "The university authorities had earlier asked the departmental chairmen and Institute directors to make the list. But they did not bother to do it."

As part of its move, the authorities recently sat for a meeting with the newly elected faculty deans and adopted a 10-point recommendation which included taking classes regularly, meeting with the students at least three days a week, holding examinations as per schedule and announcing results within one month.

Besides, the DU authorities

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are holding 'orientation programmes' for the newly recruited lecturers to make them aware of their academic duties. Thirty-three lecturers were given various instructions in the first such programme held late last month.

When contacted, pro-Vice-Chancellor of DU Prof M Shahadat Ali said that they would do everything to stop unauthorised consultancy and restore academic discipline at the university.

Evading a direct answer on show cause notice, Prof Ali said that the authorities would not hesitate to take action against those teachers still involved in unauthorised consultancy, violating rules.

"We have been able to bring back a congenial academic atmosphere at the university and we hope to be able to restore academic discipline by stopping unauthorised consultancy and making the teachers accountable," he added.

Talking to this correspondent, many teachers observed that the university authorities should be much more strict to implement their various instructions regarding consultancy. Some however believed that the authorities would never be able to do anything in this regard.