

Evening courses at DU on rise

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THE number of evening postgraduate, certificate, diploma and other professional courses at the Dhaka University is on the rise

hampering education of regular students.

Although the courses were introduced to spread higher education among professionals to enrich their knowledge and skill, it now became a cash cow

for teachers and officials of many departments, said students and teachers.

The academic council first approved evening master's courses of business faculty in October 2001. Now at least 34 departments

and institutes have evening courses and 15 of them introduced such courses after January 2009 when AAMS Arefin Siddique assumed the office of vice-chancellor. Teachers and students also alleged that question-

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Dhaka University, is producing low-quality graduates because of personal benefit and profit, Dhaka University treasurer Kamal Uddin said at a senate meeting on June 18.

A section of teachers are tarnishing the image of Dhaka University through the evening courses and pushing the regular students into challenges in the job market, he said.

Branding them as shopkeepers, Kamal Uddin said that they were introducing evening courses and enrolling students without or holding admission tests on paper only with a motive of 'more students more money.'

Arefin Siddique, however, said that Kamal Uddin made the observation from his experience. 'There may be some criticism about all courses and evening courses are no different,' he said.

'Making profit is never the target of any evening course, rather we have increased evening courses on different

subjects as professionals can take academic education on their profession,' he said.

'We ensure quality education,' Arefin said.

Sources in the university administration said that since January 2009, evening master's, certificate or others courses were introduced at television, film and photography studies, printing and publication studies, Japanese studies, criminology, nuclear engineering, communication disorder, organisation strategy and leadership, sociology, geography and environment, political science, oceanography and clinical psychology departments and Institute of Energy, Institute of Disaster Management and Vulnerability Studies and Confucius Institute.

Evening courses at Institute of Business Administration, business faculty, Institute of Social Welfare and Research, development studies, population science and health economics are popular.

Almost all of these are com-

mercial courses alleged Dhaka University unit Chhaira Union president Tuhin Kanti Das and Chhaira Federation president Umme Habiba Benojir.

Fees for evening master's courses are many folds than that of regular courses, even it ranges between Tk 1.5 lakh and Tk 2.85lakh, the student leaders said.

Umme Habiba pointed that many teachers usually took courses at three places—regular courses, evening courses and private universities. 'So they just pass time for regular courses to keep their job so it is obvious regular students do not get proper attention from them.'

Former Dhaka University vice-chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury said that that evening course was introduced in fag end of his tenure and it was designed in view of the growing demand and for developing necessary skills and learning of professionals.

These courses are by no means a substitute for regular courses and should affect

regular courses, he said.

Attitude of profit making is very bad for education and there should be a guideline how much teachers can teach others courses than their regular courses, he added.

'If the evening courses are meant for teachers' benefit, it is not acceptable,' said former vice-chancellor SMA Naz, adding 'Fees of the evening courses should not reach such level that can be termed profit making.'

Arefin Siddique, however, denied any allegation of profiteering of teachers through evening course 'We do not have any profiteering allegation on evening courses'

The fee of these courses is more than that of regular courses so that the university does not face budget crunch because of the cost of the evening courses and salaries of teachers and staffs and other expenditures come from the course fees, he said.

The fees are less than that at private universities, he added.

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প্রাপ্তি নং.....	
তারিখ.....	
চাফ. পরিচালক (সি.এস.)	
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সিস্টেম এনালিস্ট	
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প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা	
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