

SITTING ALLOWANCE FOR DU VC, PRO-VC

Provision degrading for univ: teachers

Mohiuddin Alamgir

CURRENT and former senior teachers of Dhaka University think that provision of allowances for attending meetings for statutory positions like vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor of the university dents the image of the country's highest seat of learning.

The VC and pro-VC should be kept out of the purview of the sitting allowance as taking part in different committee meetings or presiding over them is their statutory responsibility, they say.

They consider the VC position, being a prestigious

Continued on page 2 Col. 5

Provision degrading

Continued from page 1
one, already entitled to various facilities like residence, full time car, office bearers and others.

The issue became a talk among the university teachers as the authorities circulated that DU incumbent VC Professor AAMS Arefin Siddique did not receive any of the sitting allowances worth Tk 1.25 crore in last seven years.

They have found the university authorities to have been trying to 'highlight' Arefin at the cost of other teachers' dignity.

A quarter of the teachers also raised their eyebrows over the amount of sitting allowance of DU as they said that the amount a VC could draw from sitting allowance in a month was more than the VC's monthly salary.

When approached, Dhaka University vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique refused to make any comments on the allowance issue.

The university treasurer, Professor Kamal Uddin, also did not want to comment on teachers' demand that VC and pro-VC, should be kept out of purview of sitting allowance.

Kamal Uddin said he, while presenting this year's university budget in the annual senate meeting on June 16, had said, 'Pro-vice-chancellor, treasurer and others, who hold the higher

positions in the university, received sitting allowances happily.'

'But only our vice-chancellor has not taken any sitting allowances worth Tk 1.25 crore in the last seven years', he added.

He said that he had cited the example to demonstrate how much a person could sacrifice for the university.

When New Age sought information from Kamal Uddin regarding when the sitting allowance system for all and the provision including VC and pro-VC for the benefit was introduced, he could not say exactly when but added that it was introduced several years back.

Kamal Uddin also failed to provide information about the amount of money received as sitting allowance and how many people so far received it. 'It is not possible to keep accounts of individual's sitting allowance,' he said.

Former DU treasurer and current VC of Jagannath University Professor Mijanur Rahman said that 'sitting allowance for teachers and externals was introduced in 2003. But the allowance was not applicable for VC and pro-VCs'.

Professor SMA Faiz, who was VC of DU between 2002 and 2009, said that when the sitting allowance was introduced for others teachers, VC and pro-VC were left out of the benefit as 'VC and pro-

VCs are trying to get sitting allowance by presiding over meetings,' he added.

'Presiding over meetings is part of job responsibility for the VC,' he observed, elaborating that the position of VC was prestigious and dignified.

'We should not evaluate this position in monetary term,' he said.

Announcing that the VC has not taken sitting allowance is nothing but camouflage and created confusion among many,' he commented.

Samad also suggested that there should be transparency about how much money VC could spend in a year or month.

Both Mijanur and Samad

teachers

were skeptical about the figure, Tk 1.25 crore, which the VC was said not to have received as sitting allowance.

Mijanur claimed that the figure was 'exaggerated'.

'If he [Arefin] did not take Tk 1.25 crore money in seven years, it means he had not taken Tk 1.48 lakh per month, which is more than his salary,' Mijanur pointed out.

SMA Faiz claimed that circulation of news that DU incumbent VC was the only one who did not take sitting allowance hurt him as a former VC.

'It hurts me as many started asking me if I took sitting allowance,' he said.

'If the current university administration has changed the provision allowing sitting allowance for the VC and the pro-VC, it was an unwise decision,' SMA Faiz added.

Another former DU VC AK Azad Chowdhury refused to make any comments when New Age approached for his comments about sitting allowance.

ব্যানবেইস	
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়	
প্রাপ্তি নং.....	
তারিখ.....	
চীফ, পরিসংখ্যান বিভাগ	
চীফ, ডি.এল.পি বিভাগ	
সিস্টেম এনালিস্ট	
সিস্টেম ম্যানেজার	
প্রশাসনিক কর্মকর্তা	
পি.এ.	
কার্যার্থে/জ্ঞাতার্থে	
স্বাক্ষর	