

Ministers to visit AMU centre tomorrow

Staff Reporter

MALAPPURAM: Union Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed will visit the Malappuram Special Centre of Aligarh Muslim University at Perinthalmanna along with Education Minister P.K. Abdul Rabb on Monday to evaluate the progress of the institution.

The Ministers' visit will have political significance especially in the wake of the criticisms levelled against the State government and the Centre for constraining the functioning of Aligarh Muslim University and its special

centres. The Central government, through a circular dated August 10 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, had restrained Aligarh Muslim University Vice-Chancellor P.K. Abdul Azis from making any appointment or promotion, and taking any policy decision about the executive and academic functioning of the university until he demitted office on January 17, 2012.

The Malappuram special centre of Aligarh Muslim University was particularly affected as its work was stalled in infancy.

According to AMU Cen-

tre's Director P. Mohammed, the government move has come at a time when the Malappuram centre badly needed funds for its development.

Dr. Mohammed admitted that the progress of the work of the campus at Chelemala near Perinthalmanna had slowed considerably in recent months. Apart from affecting infrastructure development, the government stay will cripple the academics of the Malappuram centre.

Shortage of faculty is one of the major challenges facing the centre, according to Dr. Mohammed. At present, there are only two teachers

for its MBA programme. Six more teachers are needed for the smooth functioning of the Department of Business Studies.

The government order has frozen the faculty appointment at the Malappuram centre. The appointment of N.R. Madhava Menon, who is widely considered the father of modern Indian legal education; as a Scholar-in-Residence at Aligarh Muslim University has brought a shimmer of hope for the centre. Prof. Menon was the first PhD produced by the Department of Law at Aligarh Muslim University.