

JU VC-panel polls Aug 12

Shahadat Hossain . JU | Published at 12:40am on July 28, 2022

The Jahangirnagar University authority on Wednesday decided to hold panel election for its next vice-chancellor on August 12 while tenure of about two-thirds of the university senators has already expired.

JU registrar Rahima Kaneez confirmed New Age about the election.

She said that election would be held in a special senate session as per section 11(1) of Jahangirnagar University Act-1973 to elect a three-member panel to pick one for the post of vice-chancellor by the president who is also the chancellor of the university.

According to the act, the university senate will be formed with 93 nominated and elected members under six individual categories.

Five posts of student representatives in the university senate, however, have remained vacant for the past 30 years.

The tenure of 33 elected teachers' representatives expired four years ago while that of five academics nominated by the chancellor and 25 elected representatives of the university's registered graduates also expired one year ago.

Only 20 nominated senators and five members from the administrative body have their valid term to vote during the election.

The 63 posts of senator will not, however, remain vacant until further election to those posts as per the ordinance of the university.

Professor Rayhan Rhyne of philosophy department said, 'The body of senators of the outgoing vice-chancellor usually gains upper hand over electing panel members if no new senators turn up through fresh election.'

Explaining that the election has no moral ground, the academic said that it was more important to hold elections to the senate posts before such an election.

A senior professor of the university AKM Shahnewaz said, 'The university senate is incomplete without student representatives. Expired senators should not play such an important role in recommending a university vice-chancellor.'

'What is the moral basis behind the election?' he said.

Returning officer of the VC panel poll Rahima Kaneez refused to comment in this regard.

JU vice-chancellor Nurul Alam said, 'I have been directed by the education ministry to hold the VC panel election.'

He asked the teachers questioning the election to follow the university act and state laws.

The Awami League-backed teachers are only going to form three panels for the next VC-panel election.

Incumbent vice-chancellor Nurul Alam, dean of physical and mathematical sciences professor Ajit Kumar Majumdar, director of Wazed Miah Science Research Centre professor AA Mamun will form panel.

Treasurer of the university professor Rasheda Akhter, professor Mohammad Muzibur Rahman of statistics, professor Abdullahel Kafi of international relations department will form another panel.

The third panel will be made up by former JU vice-chancellor professor Shariff Enamul Kabir, former pro-vice-chancellor professor Amir Hussain and professor Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of physics department.

The left teachers' body is not showing interest in participating in the polls.

'We won't form any panel considering the entire political situation on the campus as well as in the national arena,' said professor Rayhan Rhyne.

President of Jahangirnagar University Nationalist Teachers' Forum Syed Kamrul Ahsan said, 'We will hold a meeting soon aiming to discuss whether we will form a panel for the poll.'



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