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Appointment of 8 lecturers on *ad hoc* basis VC's 'unilateral decision' sparks resentment among JU teachers

By JU Correspondent

The unilateral decision of the vice-chancellor regarding ad-hoc appointment of eight lecturers at Jahangirnagar University during its on-going *sine die* closure has sparked off resentment among a section of teachers, sources said.

"The university is closed now and there is no shortage of teachers at the moment," claimed Prof Abu Sayeed Khan, president of JU Teachers' Association.

Criticising the appointments, he said, "the VC has broken all previous records regarding appointment of teachers on ad-hoc basis. I strongly protest the appointment of teachers of the same political view."

No such appointment was made earlier during vacation, he said.

The university is closed *sine die* since September 30.

The university will have to pay an additional amount of Tk 60,000 from October without any service from the newly recruited lecturers, he added.

Appointments are being given to non-deserving candidates on political consideration, alleged another senior teacher of the university requesting anonymity.

As per the University Act of 1973, the VC has special power to appoint teachers on ad-hoc basis if any department needs teacher immediately, and maintaining all the procedure seems quite a lengthy process, only then the VC can apply this power.

The newly-appointed eight lecturers are Mrs Pinaki Sinha and Fakruddin Ali Ahmed (Botany), Khondoker Kamrunnesa and Shwadhin Sen (Archaeology), Mohammad Tareq and Hafizur Rahman (Environmental Science), Abdullahel Kafee (International Relations) and Badiar Alam (Bio-chemistry and Molecular Biology).

Sources said, a female lecturer was appointed following recommendation from the chairman of Botany department,

who is her husband. She was rejected twice earlier. The chairman of the department is a members of the selection body.

As per rules, authorities have to replace a member of the selection body if his relative appears before the body for interview.

Two lecturers were appointed on ad-hoc basis in Archaeology department though applications were invited for the two posts and the candidates were issued interview cards to appear before the selection committee on November 9.

Another lecturer has been appointed in the International Relations department though he did not complete his graduation and Masters degree in International Relations. His application was rejected in an earlier occasion after the university authorities found in a probe that he was involved in anti-social activities, the sources claimed. This time, his

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application was not even forwarded by the Registrar, they said.

Another senior teacher alleged that the ad-hoc appointments were aimed at securing vote in the next election of VC Panel and teachers' representatives in the Syndicate.

Election of teachers' representatives was scheduled to be held in October, but was postponed.

When contacted over telephone yesterday, VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed refused to talk to The Daily Star on the issue.