

Delay in VC panel polls

JUTA begins work-stoppage

JU Correspondent

SAVAR, Sept 18:—The Jahangirnagar University authorities are dilly-dallying to hold the elections to three-member VC panel, syndicate and senate, which has prompted a new polarization in teachers politics in the university and Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA). In protest against this JUTA began a movement including work-stoppage "which may lead to a stalemate," the experienced quarters apprehend.

Concerned sources have said that the Government is watching the situation and if worsened, the VC will be changed to avert the possible situation.

JUTA on Sept 15 in a general

meeting announced a set of action programmes to implement their 11-point demand which include election to VC panel, Syndicate, Senate, permanent appointment of teachers working as temporary basis, removal of the Proctor, withdrawal of cases filed against students and formation of anti-sexual harassment law. Earlier, JUTA gave a seven-day ultimatum to fulfil their demands, but the authorities paid no heed to it.

The action programme was taken by voting attended by 168 teachers.

The teachers began non-cooperation movement that will continue till Sept 22. The other programmes include boycotting classes on Sept 23, one-hour work stoppage from 24th to 28th and even so their demands are not materialized, they will go on with nonstop class boycott from Sept 29th.

Meanwhile 53 teachers in a joint statement expressed their disagreement to the action programme terming it anti-education activities.

In a statement VC Prof Jasimuddin Ahmad said that he would give VC panel election if directed by the Chancellor and added that he was appointed for four years. In fact his appointment letter said he was appointed until VC panel election or further order or for four years. Prof Ahmad also told of legal complexity as ex-VC filed a writ petition against his removal.

The senior teachers said to The Bangladesh Observer that as the High Court did not issued any injunction on election there was no problem in holding VC panel election and pointed at the election of Dhaka University.

It may be mentioned here that Prof Ahmad was appointed as VC after removal of an elected VC Prof Abdul Bayes by then Chancellor and he took the charge on that very night which the concerned quarters could not take easy.

This correspondent could not contact the VC even after trying several times.