

Appointment of a new VC for DU stuck in legal tangle

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APPOINTMENT of a new vice-chancellor for Dhaka University is caught in a legal tangle as the tenure of longest serving and incumbent VC professor AAMS Arefin Siddique ends tomorrow.

The education ministry has stalled the process of appointing a new VC for Dhaka University as the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on August 3 stayed the activities of the three-member vice-chancellor panel for appointing a new VC.

Education ministry additional secretary (university) Abdullah Al Hasan Chowdhury told New Age that they were not taking any step as legal issues are pending at the Appellate Division over

the VC panel election.

Normally, ministry of education sends results of VC panel election to the Prime Minister's Office for forwarding it to the Chancellor of the university, who is also the country's president, for appointing a VC for the university.

A special session of Dhaka University senate on July 29 nominated a three-member panel consisting AAMS Arefin Siddique, international business professor and incumbent DU treasurer M Kamal Uddin and theoretical and computational chemistry professor, also convenor of the Awami League-backed blue panel, Md Abdul Aziz, for choosing one of them to be the university's next vice-chancellor.

The chancellor, accord-

ing to Dhaka University Order 1973, will appoint one of the three to be the new VC for four years.

The three-member SC bench headed by chief justice SK Sinha also asked the High court to dispose of the rule which was issued seeking explanation as to why convening the senate meeting should not be declared illegal and unlawful within four weeks.

Following a writ petition filed by 15 registered graduates, mostly pro-Awami League, the High Court on July 24 issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why convening the senate session for electing the VC panel before electing 50 senate members to fill in the vacancies would not be declared illegal.

Education ministry of-

officials said that legal tangle has thus caused the unusual delay in appointing a VC for Dhaka University.

Usually, the chancellor picks up a new VC as soon as possible from the list of VC panel.

They pointed out that the chancellor had appointed Arefin as the VC for four years on August 25, 2013, following as VC panel election held on the previous day.

On January 17, 2009, Arefin assumed the office as the 27th VC on a temporary basis and served for four year and half years as an unelected VC.

Arefin was the first person who completed a full tenure as an unelected VC in the 96 years of history of the university.