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Removal of Azad Chy protested 3-member DU panel for VC elected

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A three-member panel for appointment as Dhaka University's next Vice Chancellor (VC) has been elected uncontested with the incumbent VC having every chance to legitimise his position.

The DU Senate, in its annual session on Monday, elected the three-member panel and this is for the first time in history a panel has been formed without counting votes by any aspirant for the top post of the country's pioneer university.

The panel members are current

VC Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, Dean of Social Sciences Faculty Prof M Asaduzzaman and Dean of Science Faculty and President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) Prof AFM Yousuf Haider. The VC-panel has been nominated by the BNP-Jamaat-supported White Panel, as both Awami League-backed Blue Panel and left-leaning Pink Panel gave a walkover.

The Senate session began at 3:30 pm at the Conference Hall

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DU-panel

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with Senate Chairman and VC Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury in the chair. A total of 62 members out of 73 members were present. The 12 members of the Blue Panel were also present.

Blue Panel Convenor Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed opposed the election to the VC Panel, saying this one was a partial Senate as 25 seats for the registered graduates fell vacant.

The Blue Panel leader asked the Senate Chairman to move motion condemning removal of an elected Vice Chancellor under a colonial act. "It was derogatory to the university's autonomy and the Dhaka University Order 1973," he added. Immediate past VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury was removed as per that act in October last year.

In his reply, Senate Chairman Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury said the law was the part of the Constitution and the matter had already been settled in a judgement by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

Prof Mesbahuddin Ahmed criticised the filling up of the seats of five college principals and 10 college professors since the colleges were no longer affiliated with DU. He was also critical of the removal of the Chancellor-nominated five members before ending their term.

Monday's Senate session saw the placing of the university's annual budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal. Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan placed the budget of Taka 88.95 crore.

Of the total layout, Taka 73.85 crore would be provided by the University Grants Commission (UGC). Only Taka 7.25 crore would be generated from the university's own sources. However, a budget deficit would stand at Taka 7.85 crore.

In the budget outlay, Taka 10.36 crore has been allocated to education-related sectors, Taka 12.65 crore in general and miscellaneous sectors. No amount was kept for development purposes this year.

As expected, there is no rise in the tuition and other fees. The treasurer, however, said that the UGC did not instruct to general revenue and rather deducted internal income from the total allocation.

In the budget, he proposed construction of a 10 storey commercial building at the southeast end of the university playground and another at Green Road to increase the university's internal revenue earning.

The left-leaning Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation brought out procession during the senate session, demanding more allocation to education related sectors. The student bodies placed memorandum to the Senate.