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CUV-C may get extension

Chittagong Office

CHITTAGONG, Dec 27.—The Vice Chancellor Professor Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury of Chittagong University on completion of his four years term is scheduled to retire from the office on December 29.

Although the incumbent Chittagong University Vice Chancellor is on the verge of retirement from the office, there is no immediate prospect to hold election for the new 3-member VC panel. The election of 3-member VC panel by the University Senate members under the nomenclature of 1993 University Act is *sine que non*.

Following the election of three teachers to the VC panel, the Chancellor will finally appoint one of them as the new Vice Chancellor.

But the University of Chittagong had to put off the scheduled election of three teachers to the VC panel on December 26 in the backdrop of injunction given by a High Court Division of the Supreme Court. Upon a writ petition from Dr Mohammad Kamaluddin, a teacher of Chittagong University Forest Department, the learned High Court gave this injunction. In the writ petition, the plaintiff challenged the validity of holding of VC panel election by the Senate members whose term, as claimed, expired long time back.

Earlier the scheduled election of 33 teacher representatives to the Senate on November 30 too had to be postponed at last moment because of injunction from a Chittagong Court. Professor Abdul Gafur filed a case pointing out anomaly in the Senate election voter list and got the injunction.

Against that backdrop, there is now a bizarre situation pervades over the appointment of next Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University. The incumbent Vice Chancellor Professor Rafiqul Islam Chowdhury during whose long four years tenure the university witnessed a relative quiet academic life may get an extension of his job of Vice Chancellorship till the end of this impasse. A government order to that effect is in the offing, according to a competent university source.

Meanwhile, twelve senior teachers of Chittagong university in a joint statement said that a vested quarter "hatched a blue print to get the appointment of their choiced person through backdoor as the next Vice Chancellor of Chittagong University sidetracking the provisions of 1973 University Act".

The teachers also vehemently criticized the government for toeing the line of that vested quarter openly. They expresseed their firm determination to foil "this evil design."

The signatories to the statement include Professor Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury, Professor Anupam Sen, Professor Hamida Banu, Professor Abdul Mannan, Professor Ali Imdad Khan, Dr Abu Yusuf Alam, Professor Mohammad Alauddin and Professor Sultan Ahmed.

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