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DU senate polls tomorrow

GOP concerned over irregularities

Staff Correspondent

Gonotantrik Oikyo Parisad (GOP) expressed their concern over the irregularities taken place in the preparation of staggering senate election of Dhaka University which will begin tomorrow (Thursday) with the holding of voting at 20 centres outside Dhaka.

Members of convening committee for DU senate election of Gonotantrik Oikyo Parisad presented a number of irregularities noticed in the electoral process of DU senate election to the newsmen at a press conference on Tuesday at National Press Club.

DU senate election will be held in 36 centres across the country. After holding of election in 20 centres on May 22, election to 14 centres will be held on 27 May and at 2 centres of Dhaka on June 2. A total of 23,294 registered graduates of DU is scheduled to cast their votes.

They alleged that many registered graduate voters of DU are yet to get voters cards. Some 600 voter cards have already returned.

Convening committee members also alleged that about 23 officials outside Dhaka who were involved with previous three to four DU senate election process have already been replaced by those who got ad-hoc appointments for this purpose only. Former DU Vice Chancellor and a member of the convening committee Prof. A.K. Azad Chowdhurty termed this change 'not an innocent act'.

Their opponent pro-government panel is allegedly influencing the authority of government colleges to hold publicity campaign in their favour in the name of 'meeting for educational development', said Advocate Syed Ahmed who is also a candidate of Gonotantrik Oikyo Parisad for the senate election.

Convening committee members got the allegation from some registered graduate voters that they received voters cards along with the ballot numbers of pro-government panel candidates from the persons who are not the employees of the post office.

They expressed their doubt about the participation of their supporters in the electoral process in Barisal and Bhola centres. Gonotantrik Oikyo Parisad members expressed their grave concern over the turnout of voters in DU centre in the backdrop of recent attempted attack on three senior teachers of the university.

Members of the convening committee told the newsmen that they are optimistic about their victory in wide margin as they have already received encouraging response. But they expressed their concern over the possible influence of the administration in manipulating the election result. They want that such election should not be stigmatised.

They have already informed the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University about the irregularities. But Advocate Syed Ahmed said even after informing DU authority attempts are going on to manipulate the election.

They urge the university authority to be careful about taking protective arrangement for the casted ballot papers of May 22 and May 27 that will be counted after the holding of election in two centres of Dhaka on June 3. They also submitted a written memorandum to the VC of DU in this regard.

Editor of The Bangladesh Observer and a member-candidate of the convening committee of Gonotantrik Oikyo Parisad Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said that they expected that DU senate election will be free, fair and transparent to protect its democratic fervour and already media has shown its concern.

Former finance minister A M A Muhit, member of advisory committee of Awami League Barrister Amirul Islam, Awami League presidium member Begum Motia Chowdhury, organising secretary of Awami League Akhtaruzzaman, former BMA general secretary Dr. Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin and senior teachers of Dhaka University Prof. Sultana Shafi, Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof. Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Prof. Hossain Monsur, Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury were present at the press conference.