

NEWAGE

1,100 NU jobs declared illegal

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THE High Court on Monday declared illegal the appointment of nearly 1,100 National University employees on the ground of anomalies in the recruitment process.

The employees, including deputy registrars, assistant registrars, section officers, programme officers and drivers, were appointed between November 17, 2003 and August 31, 2004.

The bench of Justice

Hasan Foyez Siddiquee and Justice Md Jahangir Hossain also ruled that the termination would come into effect immediately after the pronouncement of the verdict.

The authorities have been asked to complete the process of fresh recruitment to the posts in six months, said the court verdict.

The court, however, said the employees would be able to apply if any circular on new appointment to the

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1,100 NU

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posts was issued and the age limit for service was relaxed for them.

They will have to take part in written test and viva to prove their competence, the court said in the ruling.

As per the verdict, the organisational structure of the National University will have to be rearranged legally before publishing a circular in at least five national dailies for fresh appointments.

The court pronounced the verdict after the final hearing in a writ petition which was filed by Awami League lawmaker Fazle Rabbi Miah in 2004 challenging the legality of the appointment of the employees to the university.

On December 4, 2011, the Appellate Division after hearing a petition of some of the employees, revoked two High Court verdicts against the termination of NU employees and directed the High Court to dispose of the writ petition by January 22, 2012.

Supreme Court lawyer Fazle Rabbi Mia challenged the legality of the appointments in 2004. A High Court bench in 2006 dismissed his plea.

Gazipur lawmaker AKM Mozameel Haque on December 15, 2010 filed a review petition and the High Court on August 23, 2011 ordered the university to terminate the staffs.

The Appellate Division on December 4, 2011 overturned the High Court's two earlier verdicts and ordered a fresh hearing after the fired employees filed three appeals.

National University's counsel Zafar Ahmed argued that the appointments were on the basis of advertisements published in five national dailies.

Senior lawyers Rafiqueul Haque and Rokonuddin Mahmud defended the NU employees while deputy attorney general Biswajit Roy represented the state in the hearing.