



AFM Yusuf Haider, Ferdous Hossain — new DUTA President and Secretary

Whites get top DUTA slots as Blues bicker

By DU Correspondent

Pro-BNP 'White' panel and Pro-Awami League 'Blue' panel shared the 15 seats on the executive committee as Dhaka University teachers chose their new leaders yesterday.

The Whites secured seven posts including president and general secretary and the Blues bagged eight posts including that of vice president and treasurer of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA).

Dr. AFM Yusuf Haider of Physics and Provost of Surya Sen Hall was re-elected president, polling 481 votes. His Blue rival Dr. Md Sahadat Ali got 414.

His Physics colleague Dr. Mesbah Uddin Ahmed became vice president bagging 442 votes. His White panel rival, Dr. Md Khalilur Rahman of Biochemistry got 419 votes.

White panel nominee Md Ferdous Hossain of Political Science was elected general secretary by a narrow margin of seven votes. He scored 446 votes to beat his rival, Blue nominee AAMS Arefin Siddique of Journalism who pulled 439 votes.

Dr. Md Habibur Rahman of Marketing was elected treasurer. The Blue nominee got 473 votes while his White rival Abu Ahmed polled 460 votes.

White panel candidate Dr. Jahangir Hossain Sarder of Finance and Banking was elected joint secretary. He bagged 446 votes while his rival Blue candidate Dr. Mizanur Rahman got 395 votes.

Dr. SMA Fayeaz of White panel got the highest number of votes among members.

The Blues won six of the 10 executive committee member seats. They were Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of Management (447 votes), Dr. RIM Aminur Rashid of Physics (473), Dr. Nilufar Nahar of Chemistry (410), Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman of Bangla (449), Dr. MD. Anwar Hossain of Biochemistry (433) and Dr. Md Hossain Mansur of Geology (436).

The four White members were Dr. Abul Kalam Manzur Morshed of Bangla (426 votes), Dr. SMA Fayeaz of Soil Science (510 votes), Dr. Jinnatun Nesa Tahmida Begum of Botany (461 votes) and Dr. Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed of Economics (412 votes).

The Left-leaning Pink panel

failed to win a single seat. The panel put up candidates for all but treasurer.

The voting took place at the Dhaka University Club from 10 am to 2 pm. Prof. Hadiuzzaman conducted the election in which 965 teachers cast their votes.

Observers say the results indicated a clear no confidence in the way the current crisis regarding the alleged sexual assault by teachers is being handled by the university administration. It also pointed to the continued erosion of the Blue hold on the affairs of the premier educational institution.

The Blues staged a comeback in recent years, winning all major elections that gave them the control over the policymaking Syndicate, a clear majority in Senate. The deans came from among the Blues. So did most members of powerful the Academic Council. The current vice chancellor also belongs to the Blue panel.

Watchers say yesterday's DUTA results also brought to surface the feuding factions within the Blues. Only last month, the Blues lost vital seats on the Syndicate because of what insiders say intra-group conflict of interests.