



Pro-BNP white panel sweeps DUTA polls

Varsity Correspondent

Ruling BNP-Jamaat supported White Panel swept the election of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), capturing 12 out of 15 posts of the Executive Committee, including that of President.

Rival Awami League-backed Blue Panel, previously dominating the DUTA executive committee, lost the polls. They, however, got only the rest three posts - the General Secretary and two members.

Prof AFM Yousuf Haider has been elected the DUTA president for the third term, securing 512 votes against his only rival Prof AZM Naosher Ali Khan of Blue Panel, who bagged 434 votes.

The General Secretary of the outgoing DUTA committee, Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan of Blue Panel, narrowly escaped the electoral battle, obtaining 474 votes. His rival Prof Yarul Kabir of the White Panel lost only by a margin of three votes.

Member candidate from the White Panel Prof M Asaduzzaman the sitting Dean of the Social Science Faculty, got the highest vote in the DUTA polls of 2002. He obtained 589 votes is being elected as one of the 10 DUTA members.

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DUTA polls

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A total of 927 elector out of 1250 (serving as teachers) cast their votes in the election held at the Dhaka University Club between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm on Tuesday, without any break. No ballot was rejected, said the election commissioner Prof Ahmad Kabir of Bangla Department.

Chemistry Professor Dr Abul Khair of the White Panel was elected Vice President with 488 votes against Hossain Mansur. Dr Hossain got 445 votes.

Director of the Institute of Business Administration Dr Anwar Hossain won the post of treasurer with a margin of 494-446 against SM Mahfuzur Rahman of the Blue Panel.

White Panel candidate in the post of Joint Secretary Tahmina Akhtar Tofi won over Dr Mujib Uddin Ahmed, associate professor of Accounting, with a 471-446 margin.

Of the 10 general members of the executive committee White Panel captured eight posts.

Outgoing DUTA President Prof RIM Aminur Rashid and former DUTA General Secretary Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiq were elected as Blue Panel candidates in the member posts.

The other elected members of DUTA Executive Committee of 2002 are Prof Syed Abul Kalam Azad (562), M Ferdous Hossain (530), Prof Abu Ahmed (514), Dr M Abul Bashir (506), Dr AKM Dr Syed Rashidul Hasan (473) and Dr Tazmeri Selima Akhtar Islam (447) - all from the White Panel.

Following the official announcement of the results, the winner White Panel leaders held an impromptu press briefing.

White Panel Election Coordinator Prof SMA Faiz described the election results as resurgence of the young teachers against the politicisation by the previous Awami League regime.

White Panel Convenor Prof Wakil Ahmed said the changeover in the national politics and the DU administration played as catalyst role to the landslide victory of the White Panel. "The wind was in our favour and it brought success."

The President-elect Prof AFM Yousuf Haider assured the teachers of widening facilities including health insurance, accommodation, promotion in career and research facilities.

Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan, the new General Secretary, said he was elected as the choice of the voters, but most of his panel members failed "because the voters did not give their verdict in their favour."

Member-elect from the Blue