

3 VC candidates of JU elected

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University senate yesterday elected a panel of three vice chancellor candidates, from whom the president will appoint one as the successor of Prof Anwar Hossain, who resigned in January over allegations of irregularities.

Prof Farzana Islam of anthropology secured the first spot bagging 43 votes, while Prof Abul Hossain of physics and Prof Amir Hussain of economics trail her with 42 and 33 votes. They all are said to be loyal to former VC Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir.

Initially, both Prof Farzana and Prof Abul got 40 votes each. Following five tosses, three more votes went to the former and two to the latter.

A total of 69 out of 82 senate members, who were entitled to vote, cast ballots in the hour-long election at the Senate Bhaban. The results were announced at 7:30pm.

A total of six candidates were nominated, of whom Acting VC Prof MA Matin and Pro-VC Prof Afsar Ahmed got 25 votes each, while former VC Prof Abdul Bayes got 27.

According to the university act, Chancellor and President Abdul Hamid will appoint one of the three as VC for the next

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four years. It is not mandatory to appoint the candidate who gets the highest number of votes, but if appointed, Prof Farzana would be the first female vice chancellor of the country.

Registrar Prof Abu Bakar Siddique told The Daily Star that there was no time limit to appoint VC after election of the candidates but usually it happened shortly.

Earlier, a section of teachers demanded reconstitution of the senate before election of the VC candidates, as most of the senate members were loyal to Prof Shariff who was removed in May 2012 for allegations of irregularities in teachers' recruitment.

The teachers feared that the problems during Prof Shariff's tenure might come back if the senate was not reconstituted.

On January 23, the president appointed Prof MA Matin as acting VC for one month after Prof Anwar quit on January 13, and directed him to arrange the VC panel election within the period.