

Anwar quits as JU VC

Sends letter to president for acceptance

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday resigned as the vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University in the face of around a year-long movement by a section of teachers demanding his removal.

"I have already sent my resignation letter to President Abdul Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, by a messenger," Prof Anwar told The Daily Star.

"I don't know yet whether my resignation has been accepted," he added.

Prof Anwar who was appointed on May 20, 2012, is the fifth JU VC forced to step down following movements.



Prof Ajit Kumar Majumder, president of JU Teachers Association (Juta), described Prof Anwar's resignation as a victory for the teachers participating in the movement.

On January 12, the JU Day, Prof Anwar had announced for the second time that he would soon step down.

He first declared to quit on February 12, 2013 during a press conference at JU Senate Hall as Juta brought the allegation that he had failed to run the university properly.

Later, he backtracked on his decision saying students want him back at JU.

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Majority of JU teachers under the banners of Juta and Shikkhak-Shikkharthi-Karmarata Karmachari Oikya Forum had been demanding Prof Anwar's removal since February last year.

They accused him of committing irregularities in teachers' recruitment, spoiling teacher-student relations, delivering unwelcome words to teachers and misbehaving with them, letting BCL men attack the agitating teachers and misusing university funds.

In November last year, agitating teachers waged a movement demanding execution of the chancellor's directives to hold the VC panel election.

The chancellor issued four directives asking the JU authority to arrange a VC panel election soon, as teachers had kept Prof Anwar confined to his university residence for several days.

In the face of relentless protests by teachers-students, a team of police escorted Prof Anwar out of the campus on December 5 last year.

On December 16, agitating teachers forced Prof Anwar to leave the campus as per their earlier decision of not letting him enter there.

Since then Anwar had been carrying out his duties from a rented house in the capital's Uttara.