

DU senate nominates three for VC

Pro-BNP members boycott session

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University senate in a special session yesterday nominated a panel of three teachers for the next vice chancellor amid a boycott by pro-BNP-Jamaat teachers' representatives.

The nomination came in the presence of only 36 senate members, which is the lowest in a decade. The 105-member senate currently has 50 members.

Hours before the session, about 70 pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami teachers formed a human chain before the senate building demanding the session's postponement.

Prof Tajmeri Islam, one of the eight pro-BNP-Jamaat White Panel members on the current senate, said this session was convened with an "ulterior motive" since it was held before the election of the registered graduates, schedule of which was announced earlier.

The 25 registered graduates' representatives vote once in their three-year tenure and without their participation, the VC panel's nomination is unacceptable, she added.

Meanwhile, two DU teachers and a journalist jointly filed a writ petition with the High Court on Thursday, challenging the

legality of the decision to hold this senate session.

The three nominated teachers are incumbent VC AAMS Arefin Siddique, pro-VC (education) Nasreen Ahmad, and pro-VC (administration) Shahid Akhtar Hossain.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) President Prof Farid Uddin proposed the panel, which was seconded by pro-Awami League senate member Prof ASM Maksud Kamal and unanimously approved by all attending senate members.

As per The Dhaka University Order, 1973, the senate elects three persons, from whom the chancellor, now President Abdul Hamid, selects one to serve as the VC for four years.

On January 17, 2009, Prof Arefin was temporarily appointed as the VC, held three consecutive senate sessions, each of which was participated by 84 senate members.

A pro-AL teacher, Prof Wahiduzzaman, who attended three senate sessions when the VC panel was nominated, said at least 60 members were present at all those sessions.

Pro-AL Blue Panel's Joint Convener AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan at a briefing said the VC called the session as it could be held with 25 members. Photo on page 5.