

KUET vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor removed

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Khulna University of Engineering and Technology (KUET) Vice-Chancellor Professor Mohammad Mashud and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Sheikh Shariful Alam were removed from their posts on Friday night following prolonged student protests.

The Ministry of Education issued two separate circulars, relieving the two top officials of their responsibilities.

Siraj-ud-Doula Khan, the ministry's senior information officer, confirmed the development at around 11:45pm on Friday.

According to the circulars, both professors have been directed to return to their respective academic departments.

Professor Mohammad Mashud belongs to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, while Professor Sheikh Shariful Alam is from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering.

Earlier, in the early hours of Thursday, the government began the formal process of removing the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor.

Following the government step, normalcy returned to the KUET campus after over two months of unrest.

The students, who had been demanding the removal of the two officials, withdrew their fast-unto-death protest on Thursday.

However, in a statement issued on the same day, the KUET teachers' association expressed concern, stating that the removal of the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor under pressure and without a proper investigation was a 'defeat of justice'.

The students had been staging their fast-unto-death protest since the afternoon of April 21, demanding the removal of the vice-chancellor over allegations of failing to ensure student safety, encouraging legal action against protesters, and the temporary expulsion of 37 students.

On Wednesday, Education Adviser Chowdhury Rafiqul Abrar visited the campus and urged the protesting students to withdraw their strike.

Although the suspension orders against the 37 students were later revoked, the protest continued until the government assured them that steps were being taken to remove the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor.