

# Most pvt univs run by acting VCs, pro-VCs

*UGC worried*

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EIGHTY three private universities currently lack a full set of the top three academic and administrative officials required for running a university, namely vice-chancellor, pro-vice-chancellor and treasurer.

Most of the private universities, according to University Grants Commission, are run by officials in acting capacities and persons nomi-

inated by board of trustees are carrying out the duties of VCs.

Of all the private universities, 29 have no VC, 68 have no pro-VC while 48 institutions have no treasurer, although these positions are deemed essential for the smooth running of a university.

Thirteen private universities currently have none of the VC, pro-VC and treasurer positions filled, in

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# Most pvt univs run by acting VCs

*Continued from page 1.* violation of Private University Act 2010, showed a University Grants Commission update on Tuesday.

The commission asked the 13 universities to name the senior-most deans to look after the university administration within one month, said UGC deputy director Jesmin Parvin.

She also informed that the commission would issue a public circular for the private universities that have either VC, pro-VC, or treasurer position filled, to name, by January 1, one of the officials to carry out the functions of the VC.

The circular will be issued in a day or two, Jasmin added.

The Public University Act 2010 categorically says that in absence of the VC, the pro-VC will carry out the duty of the VC and the treasurer is responsible for carrying out the duties in absence of both the VC and the pro-VC.

But the commission is worried as it has noticed

that the persons nominated by board of trustees are carrying out duties of the VCs at most of the private universities,' Jasmin said.

'This is a violation of law. It cannot go on. So we are issuing the public circular,' Jesmin explained.

'If the universities fail to comply with the law, we would take actions against them,' she warned.

The UGC update shows, 12 universities — Independent University, East West University, Brac University, Daffodil International University, Stamford University, City University, Northern University, Metropolitan University, University of South Asia, Atish Dipankar University of Science and Technology, Sonargaon University and North Bengal International University — have a regular VC, pro-VC and treasurer.

Thirteen universities — International University of Business Agriculture and Technology, Sylhet International University, Premier University, IBAIS Univer-

sity, ZH Sikder University of Science and Technology, Gono Bishwabidyalay, Exim Bank Agricultural University, Britannia University, Army University of Engineering and Technology, Qadirabad, Army University of Science and Technology, Saidpur, Bangladesh Army International University, NPI University of Bangladesh, and Queen's University — have no VC, pro-VC and treasurer.

The Private University Act 2010 stipulates that the country's president, also the chancellor of all the universities, will appoint the VC, pro-VC, and treasurer of a private university from a panel of three persons proposed by the university authorities.

UGC officials said that six recently approved private universities were yet to begin their academic activities or propose the panel for appointing the VCs.

A commission member alleged that the owners and the boards of private uni-

versities avoided fulltime appointments on purpose in order to control recruitments, educational and day-to-day activities.

Private university authorities, however, denied the allegation of ill-intention.

'We do not find enough qualified academics,' said Sheikh Kabir Hossain, chairman of Association of Non-Government Universities of Bangladesh.

'Many new private universities lack the financial capacity to appoint VC, pro-VC and treasurer while some universities do not want to appoint pro-VCs because of the bad experience of conflict between the VC and the pro-VC,' Kabir added.

'We will take steps to encourage universities to abide by the law,' Kabir said.

The commission's annual report 2014 showed that 20 of the then 79 private universities had no VC, pro-VC or treasurer while in September 2016, it said that 29 of the 94 private universities had no VC, pro-VC, and treasurer.

