

RIVALRY BETWEEN IU VC, PRO VC *Classes became irregular*

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HOLDING classes at the Islamic University, Kushtia suffered disruptions over the last two weeks as open rivalries between the vice chancellor and the pro vice chancellor sharply divided the teachers and officers prompting them spend more time on agitations against each other.

Rivalries between vice-chancellor Abdul Hakim Sarker and pro vice-chancellor Shahinoor Rahman sharply divided teachers and officers.

The rivalries between the two groups was also hamper-

ing day to day administrative activities of the university, said teachers and students.

In their separate agitations, the rival groups traded corruption and various blames.

The university's 18000 students find nowhere to turn to seek the assurance that regular classes would resume any time soon.

At least five officials of the university suffered injuries in clashes that broke out between two groups as they were holding separate rallies on the campus Wednesday.

In connection with the clash, the university authori-

ties suspended two of its deputy registrars temporarily on charges of vandalising estate office and attacking officers, IU registrar office sources said.

The suspended deputy registrar's are the pro-VC's personal secretaries M Abdul Hannan and Alamgir Hossen Khan, said university registrar SM Abdul Latif.

Teachers and officials supporting the vice chancellor are demanding immediate removal of the pro vice chancellor.

The supporters of the pro vice chancellor are
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demanding the removal of the vice chancellor.

A University Grants Commission probe report has recommended the removal of the vice-chancellor finding veracity of allegations of corruption against him.

A separate UGC probe committee is expected to submit its report to the UGC chairman later in the week, said officials.

Both VC Abdul Hakim Sarker and pro VC Shahinoor Rahman blamed what they called 'vested quarters' for the disruptions on the campus.

Both denied that they were leading their groups of teachers and officials.

Many teachers said that open rivalry between the VC and the Pro VC was hampering academic atmosphere on the campus.

Classes and examinations are not being held regularly and administrative activities are suffering as the rival groups of teachers and officers are spending more time on rallies and agitations against each other, they said.

The division between the VC and the Pro VC sharply split Bangabandhu Parisad and Shapla Forum, both pro ruling party forums of IU teachers and officers.

On Wednesday, the rival groups, formed separate human chain on the campus, one on the demand of removal of the VC while the other seeking removal of the Pro-VC.

Pro-VC's supporters allegedly carried out the attack on VC's supporters that left five injured.

Supporters of pro VC formed a human chain Tuesday demanding removal

of the vice-chancellor.

At a news conference called on April 30, the supporters of the Pro-VC demanded removal of the VC alleging that he had committed financial irregularities and corruption and favouritism in recruitments.

They announced that they would launch a stern movement for the VC's removal.

At a separate news conference held on April 23, the VC's supporters demanded removal of the Pro VC bringing the allegations that he subjected female students to sexual harassments, committed forgery and maintained links with Jammata and Shibir.

Shahinoor Rahman dismissed the allegations as 'false and fabricated'.

UGC probes into the allegations against the VC found evidence of corrup-

tion against him and recommended his removal, said a probe committee member.

Education ministry officials said that in mid April they sought the prime minister's approval for the removal of the VC.

UGC officials said that a separate investigation had been instituted to find out the situation in the Islamic University.

On completion of the probe its report would be submitted to the UGC chairman as early as possible, said the probe committee member secretary Ferdous Zaman.

Abdul Hakim Sarker described the findings of the UGC probe committee as biased, he said the probe committee was under the influence of vested quarters.

He said that no irregularities in recruitments took place during his tenure.