

Sunday, Mar 29, 2026

NEWAGE

Bangladesh govt appoints new VCs in seven public univs

Staff Correspondent  16 March, 2026, 17:36



The education ministry on Monday appointed new vice-chancellors to seven public universities, including Dhaka University, Chittagong University and Rajshahi University.

Education minister ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon announced the appointments at a press conference held at the ministry's conference room at the Bangladesh Secretariat in the capital Dhaka on the day.



Replying to a question from a journalist whether the appointments were made on 'political considerations', the minister asked, 'Is it a crime for a person to engage in politics? Is it his or her disqualification? No, it's not a disqualification.'

He also said that he had checked the teachers' research works, publications, citations, academic eligibility, doctor of philosophy, post-doctorate, master of philosophy and overall academic performance for their appointments as vice-chancellors.

'We have given the highest priority to their academic eligibility,' he said, adding that if any teacher was engaged in politics, that was his or her personal matter.

Among the key appointments, professor ABM Obaidul Islam, vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Open University and a physics professor at Dhaka University, has been named the new vice-chancellor of Dhaka University.

Professor Md Faridul Islam will take charge at Rajshahi University, while professor Md Al Forkan has been appointed to lead Chittagong University.

Other appointments include professor Siddiqur Rahman Khan at Bangladesh Open University, professor Md Masud at Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, professor Rois Uddin at Jagannath University, and professor Md Nurul Islam at Dhaka Central University.

Professor Rois Uddin is the chairman of Islamic Studies department at Jagannath University and president of the university's teachers' association while professor Md Nurul Islam was serving as the pro-vice-chancellor of National University.

'We have analysed the academic records of each of the candidates and those who showed the highest performance, they have been appointed as the vice-chancellors,' the minister added.

Earlier, the Dhaka University's previous vice-chancellor, professor Niaz Ahmed Khan, submitted an application to the president and chancellor of the university on February 22, seeking release from the post to return to his previous position as a development studies professor.

Same day he also handed over a copy of the application addressed to the president to the education minister, said a press release issued by Dhaka University's public relations office.

The application comes following a press conference held on February 10, where he expressed his intention to step down from the office of the vice-chancellor.

On August 27, 2024, president Mohammed Shahabuddin, also chancellor of the university, in accordance with Article 11(2) of the Dhaka University Order, 1973, appointed professor Niaz as vice-chancellor in the aftermath of the student-led mass uprising that ousted the authoritarian Awami League regime.

Many senior officials at 45 of the 55 public universities remained absent from their offices following the ouster of the AL regime, according to the government.

Resignations of the vice-chancellors and other senior officials began as students at different universities gave them ultimatums to do so on allegations of aiding the deposed AL regime and the police to suppress the uprising.

Later, the past interim government appointed vice-chancellors to these universities. The newly appointed vice-chancellors will replace them.

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NEWAGE

Editor: Nurul Kabir, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd.

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