

JU VC Enamul Kabir goes

DU professor Anwar Hossain made new vice-chancellor

Staff Correspondent

SHARIFF Enamul Kabir on Thursday resigned as the vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University amid protests by teachers and students that had rallied for a few months for his removal.

Anwar Hossain, a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology and also current president of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association, was made vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University.

Enamul Kabir tendered his resignation to the chancellor, Zillur Rahman, also president of the republic, on Thursday evening.

The education minis-



Anwar Hossain

ter, Nurul Islam Nahid, the education secretary, Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, and the University Grants Commission chair, AK Azad Chowdhury, were present when Enamul submitted his resignation.

The chancellor at the time wanted Anwar Hossain, to be vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University, the education secretary told New Age.

Anwar told New Age on Thursday evening, 'I have yet to get any official letter but I heard the news and saw the press statement issued by the president's office.'

'I will try my best to discharge my responsibilities if I am made the vice-chairman. I will seek help from teachers, students and all,' he added.

Teachers and students of Jahangirnagar University expressed their satisfaction at the move.

Continued on page 4 Col. 5

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Continued from page 1

Nasim Akhtar Hossain, convener of Jahangirnagar University teachers' platform called Shikkhak Samaj that had rallied against Enamul Kabir, told New Age. The resignation of the vice-chancellor (Shariff Enamul Kabir) was inevitable. It was necessary to save the university. We thank the government and the teachers and students and all who played a role in the movement seeking his resignation. This will be an example for other universities.

Shikkhak Samaj, later joined in by the students, had rallied since December

2011 for the resignation of Enamul Kabir as vice-chancellor. The protests grew strong after the killing of a student on the campus.

Chhatra League activists, said to be loyal to the vice-chancellor, tortured a fourth-year student of English, Zubair Ahmed, on the campus on January 8 and he died in United Hospital early January 9.

Academic activities had been disrupted for a couple of months as teachers had been on strike.

The teachers on May 3 called off their protests after the prime minister, Sheikh Hasina, assured them of resolving the cri-

sis in consultation with the chancellor.

But the students continued with their agitation and they called off their protests on May 5 on an assurance from the prime minister.

Enamul Kabir was appointed vice-chancellor in 2009 and he became controversial because of the recruitment of teachers on political grounds. Enamul Kabir recruited 200 teachers in three years.

Striking teachers also alleged that there were irregularities in the recruitment of employees. No advertisements were published for the recruitment

of Class III and Class IV employees. They were recruited first and then the advertisement was published.

Teachers also alleged irregularities in the allotment of residential facilities. Junior teachers loyal to the vice-chancellor got the allotment of good housing facilities while many senior teachers got the allotment of low-quality housing.

They alleged that the vice-chancellor had many students enrolled on courses for BA, PhD and M Phil degrees but they did not have the required qualifications.