

Six suspended at Rokeya univ

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BEGUM Rokeya University in Rangpur has temporarily suspended six of its teachers and staff who were behind the movement demanding resignation of the vice-chancellor.

Following the suspension order signed by the Registrar at 4:30pm on Thursday, the protesting teachers, staff and students began besieging the VC's residence from Thursday evening.

Four suspended teachers are mathematics department Associate Professor and Muktiuddher Chetonay Sammilita Shukkhak Samaj convener RM Hafizur Rahman Selim, Bangla department Assistant Professor and the platform's member secretary Tuhin Wadud and accounting department Assistant Professor Apel Mahmud and lecturer Omar Faruk.

Two others are Assistant Registrar Aminur Rahman and Assistant Director of the central library Mahmudur Rahman.

Registrar Shahjahan Ali Mondol told the news agency: 'They've been temporarily suspended for waging a movement against the authorities by bringing imaginary allegations, and filing lawsuits.'

He said that the measures were taken upon the VC's directives. VC Professor Abdul Jalil Mia, however, declined comment on the matter.

At a press conference later, the protesters announced a siege to the VC's residence under the banner of 'Durniti Birodhi Mancha,' a joint platform of teachers and students against corruption.

Suspended teacher Hafizur Rahman Selim said: 'We're protesting against the corruptions of the vice-chancellor. The investiga-

tion report prepared by the University Grants Commission has spoken of massive corruption and irregularities he committed in the appointment of teachers, officials and employees and other administrative activities of the university.'

Selim said that the UGC in its report recommended removing the VC. Still, he appoints teachers and employees issuing backdated advertisements - which the regulator declared illegal.

'After he started the process to covertly recruit 14 teachers, we moved the court seeking a ban on the recruitment process.'

'The VC will commit irregularities and corruption, and we can't protest against it?' he questioned.

He said that they would besiege the VC's residence from Thursday evening until their suspension order was withdrawn.

Sub-inspector Shafiqul Islam of the university police camp said that police personnel were deployed in front of the VC's residence to avert any unpleasant incident.

A group of the university teachers, students and employees have been demonstrating since January this year demanding the VC's removal.

Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, allegedly blessed by the VC, attacked a procession of the protesters on January 10, leaving five teachers with burns injuries from battery acid. Eighteen other teachers were also injured in the attack.

In recent past, allegation of massive corruption and irregularities rose in appointment and other administrative activities of the university. Later, UGC formed a three-member probe committee.