

Iqbal Mahmud resumes duties as BUET VC

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Iqbal Mahmud resumed his duties as Vice-Chancellor of BUET yesterday.

"I am doing my routine work till my resignation is accepted," Prof Mahmud told The Daily Star last night.

He also said that he was trying to resolve the stalemate at the BUET 'internally' but did not elaborate.

The VC decided to resume his duties following his meeting with the members of the Executive Committee of the BUET Teachers' Association, held yesterday, sources said.

Prof Mahmud had resigned on May 4 last protesting interference from higher authorities in the affairs of BUET.

His resignation was followed by resignation of 71 teachers from their administrative posts the same day and a call for an indefinite teachers' strike by the BUETTA from the next day

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Iqbal Mahmud

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that created a deadlock at the BUET.

Prof Abdur Razzak Akand, President of BUETTA, when contacted last night said "During a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Association, the VC assured that he would continue his work till his resignation is accepted."

Prof Akand also said that the Association reminded the VC of its demands. The BUETTA had called an indefinite teachers' strike demanding resumption of duties by Prof Iqbal Mahmud as VC and an end to intervention from higher authorities.

Kazi Rakibuddin, Secretary, Ministry of Education, who is also the secretary to the Chancellor BUET, when contacted last night said, "No final decision has been taken regarding the resignation of the VC and other teachers from their administrative posts".

Asked whether any informal contact was made, he said, "I am not aware of it".

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the Chancellor of the BUET.

In another development at the university, the 13 teachers of Architecture Department of who resigned in March last, applied to the Syndicate yesterday in separate letters for a review of its decision regarding their resignation. The Syndicate had earlier accepted their resignation on April 26.

A spokesperson of the 13 teachers told The Daily Star yesterday that as per the Syndicate's May 3 decision, all the teachers have applied in separate letters for a review of its April 26 decision.

The Syndicate's May 3 decision sent to the 13 teachers individually had said, "You may personally apply through separate letters (not joint) regarding reconsideration of Syndicate's decision of April 26 on withdrawal of your resignation."

"We hope all of us will be reinstated in our jobs at the earliest and normalcy will return on the campus soon," the spokesperson added.

The 13 teachers had resigned protesting new admission rules in the Architecture Department.