

Restore Normalcy at BUET

Enough is enough. It's time things hummed again in the BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology). It has been a whirlpool of miscommunication and misunderstanding that the premier educational institution has found itself trapped in since trouble broke out over the withdrawal of resignation of 13 teachers of the Architecture Faculty. Both sides — VC and Teachers' Association on one side and the government, the Prime Minister who is also the Chancellor and Education Minister on the other — seemed to have badly misunderstood each other's intention making a complete hash of the agenda. For all practical purposes, the bandying of words by the 'rival camps' has reduced the issue into a competition of maudlin sentimentalism and egocentrism.

BUET is in a state of administrative collapse following the *en masse* resignation of the VC and 71 teachers on the charge of interference by the government. BUET Teachers' Association is on an indefinite strike since May 5. It is a no-go.

We are worried that a sincere and effective initiative to bring BUET back on track is yet to break through the cloud of resentment. Reports of Mr Iqbal Mahmud, the ex-VC taking initiative to normalise things were great tidings in an otherwise depressing milieu. We also think any attempt at normalisation has to be brokered by Mr. Mahmud. He does have a very valid point in expressing his intention of not returning to his old office but the future of the institution and the students demand the universally revered man play an active role in helping BUET to put behind the bad blood and nightmares. The role of the BUET Teachers Association remains a crucial influence in the bargain. We hope the association which was to submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister yesterday would act in a manner so that BUET gets over the hump sooner than later.