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End The BUET Stalemate

The BUET stalemate that came almost from nowhere need not have been let linger so long. Such crises in an institution so vital to the nation's progress in technological and engineering education, need resolving with utmost expedition. In fact the genesis of the trouble—something connected with the procedure of admission followed by the incident of resignation of 13 teachers etc—could also have been sorted out rather than be allowed to turn into a calamitous sequel such as the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor along with 73 teachers paralysing the university, the country's most prestigious and successfully-run technological institution with unsullied reputation at home and abroad. Their reason to resign was allegedly the administration's interference with the freedom and autonomy of the university. BUET is the only institution boasting such unique domestic and international status compared with the sister universities all of which are plunging deeper by the day into mounting campus unrest.

It also looks a pity that the recent addresses by the Chancellor and the Education Minister to the media explaining the administration's stand has not helped break the stalemate. It rather needlessly introduced new uncertainties through the Education Minister hinting at the issue being politically fuelled. This does not fit into the BUET's history of management kept immune to the bane of party politics. Some put it down to the administration invariably tending to describe most issues in terms of hostile moves from the political opposition, and are of the opinion that it does not apply to the current crisis at the Bangladesh Engineering University. It is, in the first place, an academic crisis created by some alleged causes; in the second, it is capable of being resolved speedily, given a seriously sincere gesture from the Chancellor through personal and direct contact with the Vice-Chancellor and the teachers concerned. Instead of the administration thinking of appointing a new Vice-Chancellor the problem should be solved by persuading the incumbent one and the resigned teachers to rethink and reverse their decision in a cordial atmosphere of a meeting. Rigidity would augur ill for this great institution, both for now and the future.

Incidentally, we appreciate the appeal issued to the Press by 51 Dhaka University teachers for an early end to the stalemate at the BUET and to prevent it from sliding into politics that may seriously harm a national institution that has maintained consistently a clean bill of health right from the beginning.