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BHASANI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Students demand VC's removal

## Teachers seek proper academic atmosphere

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Students of Maolana Bhasani University of Science and Technology (MBUST) at Santosh yesterday locked the administrative building for two hours from 9am and staged demonstrations on the campus to press their 16-point demand including removal of Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman.

They also demolished all the five foundation stones on the campus, laid by the VC, alleged to be a pro-BNP man.

They are demanding the VC's resignation for his alleged "corruption and steps that spoiled the academic atmosphere on the campus", some demonstrators told The Daily Star on the campus.

Their demands also include recruitment of qualified and senior teachers, providing classrooms, laboratories, workshops and other facilities.

The VC is in Dhaka since Saturday, when students staged demonstrations and burnt his effigy.

Yesterday afternoon, the MBUST Teachers Association at a press conference on the campus demanded immediate steps by the authorities to fulfill their 6-point demand including promotion of deserving teachers.

They also expressed solidarity with the students' demand for proper academic facilities including recruitment of more teachers, sufficient classrooms, students' hostels, laboratories and workshop facilities.

"We want a proper academic atmosphere on the campus, a corruption-free administration and creation of academic facilities," teachers' association president Mohammad Mohiuddin told the press conference.

They said there are only 28 teachers on duty for all students in 22 batches in seven departments.

This is too inadequate and each teacher has to take around five courses in every semester, they said.

They said they reiterated the demands at a meeting with the VC on February 20 but there was no positive response from him.

The students threatened of tougher agitation if the demands are not met immediately.

Campus sources alleged that the VC appointed officials and employees instead of teachers, despite repeated demands by teachers and students.

Most of the recruitments were made on political consideration, the sources claimed.

A high-level investigation team from the University Grant Commission (UGC) came to the university in the first week of this month (February) and investigated the alleged irregularities over appointments but its findings are yet to be known.

Dr Mohammad Khalilur

Rahman joined the university as VC on September 22, 2004 when there were only 157 students, 8 teachers, 17 officials, 34 third class employees and 25 fourth class employees.

After his joining, the UGC gave approval for appointment of "required manpower" in five years (from 2004).

Sources claimed that the VC appointed officials and employees in excess but did not recruit teachers in proportion to students.

The UGC approved 256 posts but the VC recruited 446 people, 117 of them on adhoc basis.

When contacted over phone, VC Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman said the recruitments were made as per approval of the university's Regent Board and there was no irregularity in the process. "We will appoint more people in near future as some posts are still vacant," the VC added.