

## No gains prompt pro-AL teachers, students to rally against RUET VC

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TEACHERS and students of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology have blamed teachers, officers, employees leaning towards the ruling Awami League and activists of the ruling party-backed Chhatra League for the impasse that has continued on the campus for 19 days.

They said that pro-AL people and BCL activists had created the situation as they failed get benefits from tender and recruitment in the university.

Teachers, officers and employees leaning towards the

Awami League, teamed up under the banner of Teachers, Officers and Employees' Unity Council, along with the university unit Chhatra League leaders and activists have continued rallying for the removal of the vice-chancellor, Sirajul Karim Chowdhury.

They alleged that the vice-chancellor had harboured BNP and Jamaat people on the campus, was involved in activities against the spirit of the country's independence, scrapped teachers' association elections at his will and had showed non-cooperation in holding programmes in support of war crimes trial.

A number of university of-

ficials said that local Awami League leaders and university unit Chhatra League activists had demanded removal of the vice-chancellor so that they could benefit from tender and recruitment.

Campus sources said that some pro-Awami League teachers and BCL activists had forced some other teachers and officials leaning towards the Awami League to resign their positions and join the movement against the vice-chancellor.

Nine teachers and officials resigned their positions in the administration in the past week.

The protesters also, locked

up the vice-chancellor's house and office, snapped water and power supply to his house, forced teachers and students to boycott classes and exams and held press conferences.

As part of the movement, they held demonstrations on Saturday, after locking up the administrative building.

The vice-chancellor brushed aside the allegations levelled against him and said that some teachers, students, and officials were rallying against him as he did not give in to their demands.

Campus sources said that the pro-vice-chancellor, Mortuza Khaled, was inciting BCL activists and pro-AL

teachers against the vice-chancellor.

Mortuza, however, brushed aside the allegations and said he that it was he recommended the appointment of Sirajul as the vice-chancellor.

The mayor of Rajshahi, AFM Khairuzzaman Liton, on Thursday night held a meeting with the vice-chancellor, the pro-vice-chancellor and teachers and students to end demonstrations but it ended inconclusively.

The mayor asked the teachers and students to withdraw their programme as the government would not remove the vice-chancellor in the current tenure.