

Teachers confine BRUR VC for two days over arrears

*Dr Tuhin Wadud hospitalised
while observing fast unto death*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Teachers and staff of Begum Rokeya University, Rangpur (BRUR) kept the vice chancellor confined to his office for the second consecutive day yesterday, demanding salary arrears.

They confined VC Prof AKM Nur-un-Nabi around 11:00am on Tuesday and began a 'fast unto death' after he failed to give a 'satisfactory answer' why their seven-point demand was not being met. The agitators' another key demand is regularisation of 338 temporary teachers, officials and employees appointed by immediate past VC Abdul Jalil Miah, whose four-year tenure ended in May. Now the university has 674 teachers and staff against 336 permanent posts.

The University Grant Commission's (UGC) allocation of Tk 1.15 crore for April, May and June ran out in April alone, said acting registrar Shahjahan Ali Mondol. For July, August, and September, the UGC has allotted Tk 2.11 crore for payment of 336 permanent teachers and staff, he added.

As the university is yet to disburse the amount, salaries of four months have become overdue.

Under the banner of "Muktijuddher Chetona Progotishil Shikhdhak Samaj," a forum of teachers who were loyal to the former VC started an indefinite strike on August 22 with the demand.

On Tuesday, when some teachers wanted to know about the progress, Prof Nur-un-Nabi failed to give any specific decision about meeting their demands.

Talking to The Daily Star, the VC said the authorities would distribute the salaries of three months (July, August and September) among the permanent teachers and staff within this month. About the temporary teachers and staff, he said the UGC would decide on them this month.

The confinement was going on till filing of this report around 11:30pm last night, and Dr Tuhin Wadud, member secretary of "Sachetan Shikhdhak Samaj", another forum of teachers who demonstrated against the irregularities during Prof Jalil's tenure and joined the fast unto death, was hospitalised.