

MOVEMENT FOR RUET VC REMOVAL

VC barred from entering campus residence

RU Correspondent

AGITATING teachers, students and officials prevented the vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology from entering the campus on Friday.

As part of their movement that began on November 13 demanding the removal of the VC, Sirajul Karim Chowdhury, they also staged demonstration on the day, accusing him of backing BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami on the campus and other allegations.

He has also been accused of being involved in anti-liberation activities, scrapping teachers' association election arbitrarily and non-cooperation in organising

programmes in support of war crimes trial.

Witnesses said VC Sirajul Karim, who has been staying outside the campus since November 25 as the movement against him intensified, reached the university gate with his wife at about 11:00pm to be thwarted by the demonstrators.

The agitators, most of whom were reportedly supporters of or involved with Awami League and its student front Bangladesh Chhatra League, also locked the gate and shouted slogans against him as he kept trying to enter the campus to finally leave after an hour.

Member secretary of the Council Harun-ar-Rashid vowed that the movement

will continue until the vice-chancellor is removed.

So far, ten teachers and other staff of the university resigned demanding the VC's removal after Progressive Teacher-Officer-Employee Unity Council, a platform reportedly of a section of people supporting Awami League, began its movement on November 13.

Earlier on Thursday night, Rajshahi city mayor AHM Khairuzzamand Liton, also a senior leader of ruling Awami League, at a meeting called on the Council to leave their movement.

Denying the allegations brought by the Council, VC Sirajul Karim Chowdhury said on Friday he would go only when the government

would ask him to do so.

'A section of teachers and students have gone against me only because I did not concede their unjust demands,' he told New Age.

The agitators earlier snapped the telephone line and power supply of the VC's residence.

Several high officials in the university administration, preferring anonymity, said the agitation started as a section of local Awami League and BCL became angry when the vice-chancellor refused to recruit their chosen candidates and did not comply with their demands over tenders.

Sirajul Karim Chowdhury took office in September 2009.