

Classes in BUET resume today

Students fear prolonged academic life

Staff Correspondent

CLASSES in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology resumes today amid fear of prolonged academic sessions after about five months of disruption in academic activities.

Academic activities in BUET had been disrupted since April 7 as the teachers and students were rallying for the removal of the vice-chancellor, SM Nazrul Islam, and Habibur Rahman, who was pro-vice-chancellor and was removed in the face of protests, on grounds of their being involved in irregularities in the university administration.

The government on September 9 removed Habibur Rahman as pro-vice-chancellor but Nazrul Islam contin-

ued to be in office.

The government took the steps after the education minister, Nirul Islam Nahid, had given BUET teachers and students such assurances at separate meetings on September 3 and 5.

Nahid also assured the teachers and the students that a decision regarding the removal of the VC would be taken later.

The BUET Teachers' Association general secretary, Ashraful Islam, told New Age that the teachers would take classes and resume other academic activities on Saturday.

He said that after the removal of Habibur Rahman and the withdrawal of the cases against the teachers and the students, the teachers had expected that the government

would also change the BUET administration quickly.

Ashraf said that the teachers were firm on their stand for the removal of the vice-chancellor.

'We very much expect that that the government would make a decision in this regard without wasting time.'

Nazrul Islam told New Age that all had been set to resume classes and academic activities in the university on Saturday. The deans' committee has prepared a new academic calendar.

As for admission tests for the 2012-13 session, he said. 'The academic council meeting will be held next week and we will set the date for holding the admission tests without delay.'

BUET teachers and stu-

dents feared that disruption of classes could prolong the academic life of the students.

They said that classes had not been held from December 31, 2011 to January 2 in the institution as Chhatra League activists injured a senior student.

Teachers boycotted classes for a about a week early this year pushing for the extension of their retirement age to 65 years.

Again in 2010, campus was closed for about a month following a clash in June between students over the closure of the university for the World Cup football.

Students said that BUET was lagging behind the current academic calendar by three to six months mainly because of unscheduled closures and another six months to a year

more could be wasted if immediate steps were not taken.

BUET has five batches in bachelor's students although there should have been four.

Nazrul Islam and Ashraful Islam both said that they would take steps to recover the time wasted.

The BUET stalemate began on April 7 when the teachers' sit-ins and class boycott began levelling 16 allegations against the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor. Students and university officials later joined the agitation in mid-July.

The protesters began rallying on July 11 demanding removal of the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor after the vice-chancellor had closed BUET on the night of July 10.