

BUET teachers say being threatened Vow to continue strike

DU Correspondent

TEACHERS of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, who are striking for resignation of the institution's vice-chancellor and pro vice-chancellor, have alleged they are being threatened to end their protests.

Talking to New Age, the striking teachers said that at the instruction of the university authorities, BUET unit Chitra League activists and the university staff were continuously threatening them and their families asking them to withdraw the strike.

The university authorities had instructed the BCL

men and the staff to lock the office rooms of the teachers, he said.

Rejecting the teachers' demand for his resignation, he said he had no plan to resign.

The teachers, however, vowed to continue the strike until their demands were met.

'We stick to our demand, mechanical engineering department professor Md Masud Helali told New Age.

The BUET Teachers Association has been agitating since Saturday against alleged political recruitment, irregularities and autocratic attitude of the VC and pro-VC.

Some 156 teachers at a meeting on Saturday decid-

ed to abstain from work over the demands. All but four members who attended the meeting demanded resignation of the VC and pro-VC.

The meeting also called for abolition of the newly created post for pro-VC. It said since the establishment of the university in 1962, there was no post for pro-VC. But in 2009 a pro-VC was appointed for the first time which caused many problems.

The teachers said the present pro-VC was appointed in 2009 and the VC in 2010 and after they took the office, they had taken many 'controversial' decisions.

The teachers alleged that

the present pro-VC was appointed superseding 50 senior teachers and he was not even senior enough to become a head of the department or dean.

They said that promotion, time scale and selection grade were given to officials and employees who were not eligible but were loyal to the VC and pro-VC.

All academic activities at BUET have remained suspended since April 7 because of the teachers' strike.

No classes are, however, scheduled for now as the previous semester has just ended. The new semester and regular classes are scheduled to begin April 15.