

BUET teachers vow to continue strike

Students, staff rally against striking teachers

DU Correspondent

TEACHERS of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology teachers, who have been on strike for the seventh consecutive day till Sunday, have vowed to continue with their strike demanding the resignation of the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor while students and employees demanded that the teachers should call off their protests.

No classes and academic activities were held on Sunday when semester was scheduled to begin because of the strike of the teachers.

'Despite all odds, we will continue with our protests until our demands are met,' the BUET Teachers' Association president, Md Mujibur Rahman, said at a press conference at the Civil Engineer-

ing Building on the campus.

He said, 'We now have the reputation of the institution at stake because of irregularities in the administration.'

He, however, hoped that the authorities would meet their demands soon so that the students do not suffer.

'The teachers can cover the syllabus of the semester by taking extra classes,' Mujibur said. 'So, I request all students to express their solidarity with our movement in the interest of the reputation of the institution.'

He also alleged that the vice-chancellor, SM Nazrul Islam, and the pro-vice-chancellor, M Habibur Rahman, had provoked some 'opportunists' among the employees and students in going on demonstrations against the teachers.

A section of BUET stu-

dents teamed up as Shadharan Shikharthi Brinda, meanwhile, formed a human chain demanding that the teachers should call off their protests so that their academic life is not disrupted.

A few hundred employees also brought out a procession in front of registrar's office. They pressed home their demands for the beginning of all academic activities immediately.

At the press conference, Mujibur said that the teachers' association had tried to talk with the chancellor, Md Zillur Rahman, president of the republic, and the prime minister, Sheikh Hasina. 'But we did not get response from them.'

The teachers, who levelled more than a dozen allegations against the university administration dur-

ing the tenure of the present vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor, said that they were not holding protests against any individual. They were doing this to revive the past glory of BUET.

The teachers' association on April 7 decided to abstain from work to push for the resignation of Nazrul Islam and Habibur Rahman.

The striking teachers also demanded that the position of the pro-vice-chancellor, created in 2009, should be abolished as there had been no such post until 2009 since the establishment of the university in 1962.

The teachers said that Nazrul Islam, appointed vice-chancellor in 2010, and Habibur Rahman, appointed pro-vice-chancellor in 2009, had made many decisions which are controversial.