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BUET teachers postpone mass resignation

Staff Correspondent

THE teachers of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, agitating for removal of the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor, on Saturday postponed their decision to resign en masse.

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BUET teachers

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BUET Teachers' Association general secretary Ashraful Islam told New Age that the association in a general meeting on the day had also decided to review the situation on July 30 and decide their next course of action.

The teachers, however, decided to continue with their two-hour daily sit-in programme in front of the university's academic building from 11:00am to 1:00pm to push their demand of removal of vice-chancellor SM Nazrul Islam and pro-vice-chancellor Habibur Rahman.

On July 16, the BUET teachers had decided to resign en masse on July 22 if their demand was not met by 4:00pm on the day, hours after the education minister, Nurul Islam Nahid, met some BUET alumni as well as some of the 25 teachers, who had resigned on July 11 in protest against the decision of the vice-chancellor to close the

university for 44 days.

Ashraful Islam said three former BUET vice-chancellors - Abdul Matin Patwary, MH Khan and Iqbal Mahmud - and BUET Alumni Association president Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and vice-president Mobashhar Hossain wrote to the teachers' association president requesting them to refrain from resigning en masse as the government was trying to find a solution.

In order to end the ongoing crisis in BUET, a meeting was held at the education ministry. The meeting viewed that the stalemate in the BUET could not be resolved unless the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor were removed from their positions, the letter said.

The education minister (Nurul Islam Nahid) said further steps would be taken to end the BUET crisis after consulting the president (Zillur Rahman), also the university's chancellor, and

the prime minister (Sheikh Hasina). In order to facilitate the government's initiatives towards a settlement, we request the BUET teachers to refrain from going for mass resignation, it added.

The teachers' association president, Mujibur Rahman, said they had postponed the plan for resignation en masse to facilitate the government's initiatives. Both Mujibur and Ashraful Islam said that out of the 419 teachers of BUET, 357 had signed their resignation letters.

They said their movement was not aimed to embarrass the government or against the government rather it was against irregularities of the vice-chancellor and pro-vice-chancellor.

BUET pro-vice-chancellor Habibur Rahman said differences between the teachers and the administration was narrowing. 'I think no one will need to resign...', Habibur added.

BUET teachers, students

and employees resumed their protest programmes on Saturday and held a sit-in at the academic council building after a two-day break.

The protestors began the sit-in on July 11 pushing for removal of the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor after the authorities on the night of July 10 closed the university for 44 days.

The same day, all the five deans and the 17 department heads and directors of three institutes under the university resigned as the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor refused to quit.

The teachers, who also in April 8-May 5 rallied against the administration, pushing for removal of the two top officials, earlier levelled 16 allegations against the vice-chancellor and the pro-vice-chancellor, including 'illegal appointment of the pro-vice-chancellor and a deputy registrar on political grounds and, corruption and irregularities.'