

VCs asked not to work only for political gain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday urged the vice chancellors of public universities to be more responsible and conscious to ensure educational atmosphere at their universities.

"Don't do such a thing only for gaining political motive that hampers students' education life," he said at a press briefing after a close-door meeting with the University Council, a platform for the vice chancellors of public universities, at the Secretariat.

The minister held the meeting with the council following the recent incidents at two universities Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and Jahangirnagar University (JU).

51 Vice Chancellors (VC) of 32 public universities, representative of VCs from two universities, Education Secretary Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, and University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury were also present.

Asked about the meeting, Nahid said they have talked about the educational environment, problems and duties to solve problems at different public universi-

ties.

"We have heard different problems about the universities from the vice chancellors," he said, adding that they have placed different problems, including teachers, classroom, dormitory and financial crisis of the universities.

Asked about the appointment of a VC from a panel selected by the senate that run as per the university act, 1973, he said it is the duty of the senates to form respective panels at the four universities.

About JU, he said the prime minister would take decision about JU after consultation with the Chancellor. "It will be the prime minister to decide what else to do with Jahangirnagar University."

However, some of the vice chancellors told The Daily Star that they have informed the minister about the fact that some teachers belonging to BNP-Jamaat are trying to create instable situation at the universities.

"Some teachers who follow progressive values also join these BNP-Jamaat teachers for their own interest to make destabilise the university environment," said a VC wishing not to be named. "We also informed this fact to the minister," he added.