

SUST teachers boycott classes, exams, demanding VC's removal

Staff Correspondent · Sylhet

THE agitating pro-Awami League teachers of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology observed a full-day work abstention on Thursday, demanding immediate withdrawal of vice-chancellor Aminul Haque Bhuiyan on allegations of his irregularities, nepotism and poor behaviour with the fellow teachers.

The teachers also held him responsible for 'instigating' the BCL men for assailing them on August 30.

The teachers, under the banner of Muktijuddher Chetanay Udbuddha Shikshak Parishad, a forum of the teachers inspired by the spirit of the liberation war, boycotted classes and exams as part of their ongoing agitation on the campus to press home the demands.

Earlier on Wednesday, they also staged a token hunger strike in front of the administrative building, where the vice-chancellor's office is housed, to woo supports in favour of their demand.

Talking to New Age, the forum convener Shamsul Alam said they have rescheduled their programme for Sunday as it coincided with the event of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association that earlier declared a daylong work abstention in all public universities in the country.

Some fans of vice-

chancellor Aminul Haque, such as, a group of leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League had launched an attack on the protesting teachers on August 30 when they were staging a sit-in in front of the administrative building, where the office of the VC is housed.

The attackers scuffled with the teachers and snatched away their banner and assaulted at least 10 of them. It sparked huge protest from across the quarters in the society.

The BCL central committee, however, suspended three leaders of its SUST unit and the university authorities suspended four students, who were activists of the campus unit BCL, for their involvement in the assailing.

But the MCUSP, also a platform of the pro-AL teachers, demanded punishment of people who had used the BCL activists to accrue their personal interests and instigating them for launching the attack on their teachers.

The MCUSP had started their protests on the campus from April 20 for the VC's removal on allegations of irregularities, nepotism and misbehaviour with the fellow teachers.

Thirty five senior teachers, including popular academician and author Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, had resigned from 37 administrative posts expressing their 'no-confidence' in Aminul.