

Blockade enforced at Duet as section of students reject VC appointment

Campus activities remain suspended

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Photo: Star

The ongoing student movement rejecting the newly appointed vice chancellor of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (Duet) continued today, leaving the campus tense and largely paralysed.

Academic and administrative activities at the university came to a halt following the previously announced “Duet Blockade” programme that began this morning.



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Protesters locked the university’s main gate and administrative building, preventing entry for officials and staff. "As of now, the protest remains peaceful," said Duet's Director of Student Welfare, Utpal Kumar Das

Gazipur Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Aminul Islam said, “Tension was also observed this morning. I am at the scene, and additional police have been deployed.”

According to students, the government on Thursday issued a notification appointing Professor Mohammad Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology as Duet’s new vice chancellor. Since then, a section of students has been protesting the appointment.

Around 11:00am today, Duet unit Islami Chhatra Shibir President Abdullah Al Ahad told The Daily Star that general students had joined the movement.

“On behalf of Chhatra Shibir, I want to say that this movement is justified. Yesterday, Chhatra Dal activists and outsiders attacked students. We demand exemplary punishment for those involved,” he said.

The protesting students argue that Duet, as a specialised engineering university, requires leadership familiar with its distinct academic and administrative structure.

They believe the vice chancellor should be appointed from among the university’s own faculty members, saying internal teachers better understand students’ realities and institutional challenges, which would help ensure effective long-term development planning.

As part of the movement, protesters yesterday announced a “Red Card to the New VC” programme and staged demonstrations throughout the day.

During the protests, clashes and chases reportedly broke out between groups supporting and opposing the appointment, leaving at least 23 people injured.

This morning, protesters blocked the university’s main entrance. Although officers and staff gathered outside the gate, they were not allowed to enter the campus.

A tense atmosphere prevailed across the university and surrounding areas throughout the morning.

OC Aminul told The Daily Star that no case had yet been filed over yesterday’s violence, although legal action would be taken.