

CAMPUS

Polytechnic strike: Where will it end?

It sounds preposterous, yet it is true that the proposed admission of two Bangladeshi students at the Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICVTR) three year Higher Diploma in Engineering Course has triggered off serious resentment among the teachers and students of the 18 polytechnic of the country.

This feeling is also being shared by the diploma engineers who have taken to the streets, Gonobhavan and even to the Secretariat to give vent to their pentup anger.

The situation has reached such a pinnacle that on the 17th last the 18 principals of the different polytechnics along with the DG, Technical Education and the other high officials sat with the Education Secretary to find a way out of this impasse.

But nothing seems to be in sight in the very near future. Insiders say that it may take some time for the Govt to make a positive announcement in this regard.

This murky situation has made the fate of the new entrants who have successfully completed their SSC and desirous to join the polytechnics very much uncertain.

The admission, which was scheduled for tomorrow is delayed and concerned officials fear that it might lead to session jam making it next to impossible to clear the rot.

The striking teachers, students and engineers say that so far there existed only two class of engineers in the country—the degree holders and the diploma holders and their pay structure, job descriptions were specified accordingly.

But the sudden introduction of a post HSC three years diploma course in engineering is bound to upset the status quo because it is a higher diploma course while that of a polytechnic is just diploma in engineering.

It may not be out of place to mention that students who join the polytechnics for diploma are in most cases second division SSC holders whereas the minimum qualification for admission at the ICVTR is HSC.

At present 12749 students are enrolled at the different polytechnics according to 1985 statistics whereas only two students were supposed to be enrolled at the ICVTR's course which is funded by the Organisation of Islamic Conference and where the admission very much depends on quota basis.

These striking group on the roads are demanding cancellation of the higher engineering diploma course and introduction of a uniform course in all polytechnics.

Sameena

They are insisting as gathered from the Directorate of Technical Education the deletion of the word "higher" from the name of the course at the ICVTR and that all the diploma holders should get the same privileges and opportunities.

They fear that the ICVTR shall be producing a class of engineers who shall stand midway between the degree and diploma engineers and hence logically speaking their position shall be lowered.

The existing two-tier system they fear is in the process of being replaced by a three-tier one.

The leaders of the Bangladesh Karigari Chatra Parishad say that instead of starting a higher diploma in engineering course the syllabus of the three years diploma course as taught in the polytechnics needs recasting and modded to suit the

President of the "BAKACHAP," "a conspiracy which will have far reaching effects very difficult to be resolved.

From the Directorate of Technical Education sources it is gathered that the admission of two students to a higher course is in no way unjustified.

A high official who wishes to remain unidentified said that we should welcome such a move particularly herald opening of a new course which will benefit the nation.

He further maintained that the students studying at the polytechnics for their diploma have enough scope of higher education.

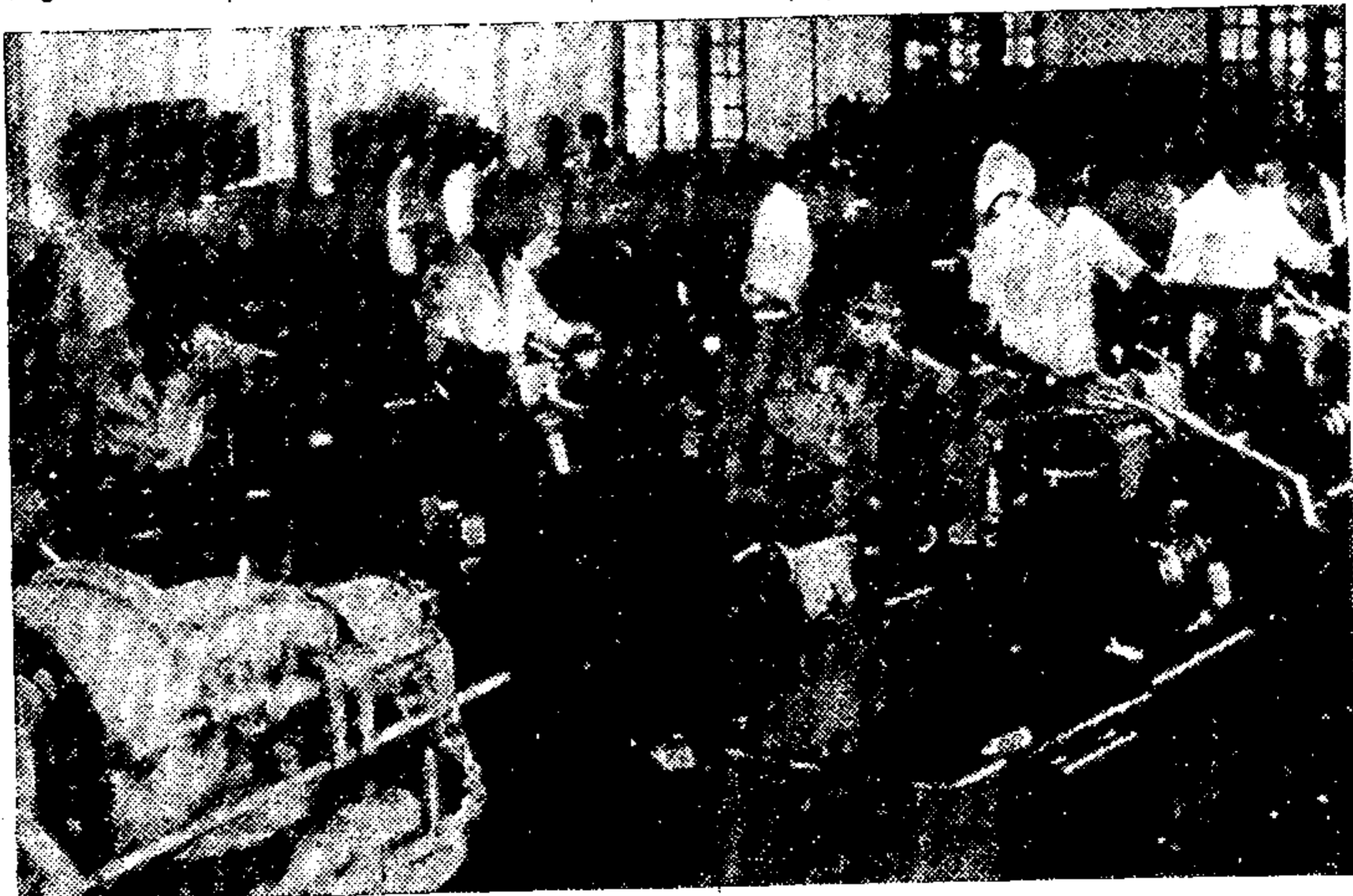
On aggregate ten percent of the meritorious students are every year eligible for admission to the Institute of Engineering at Joydebpur where they study condensed degree in engineering. Hence there is no reason

harm than good. The proposed admission of two students at the ICVTR's higher diploma course has been cancelled as decided at a meeting held at the Secretariat on the 17th last.

Furthermore, a Committee has been formed consisting of students, teachers and others connected with the polytechnics with the DG, Technical Education as the convenor to find out ways and means to solve the crisis.

The committee it is gathered shall start functioning soon and the official decision in this respect is to be announced in a day or two but it seems that admission of Bangladeshi students to the ICVTR's course shall not be banned permanently.

It is expected that from the next session ('87-'88) our students shall be there. In the meantime the Committee shall work out the modalities of placement which have to be worked out to make the hierarchy clear.



Students at a technical laboratory.

present needs of the country. Very little changes have been introduced since 1962 when the course was introduced.

The syllabus could be bought to be at par with the syllabus as taught at the ICVTR. Unless this can be done they say the 'engineering team concept' shall be disturbed and once it is so it will be very difficult to control the situation.

They see the new move to open a higher engineering diploma course as a tool to lower their image and degrade them.

"It is, according to Mr. A. K. M. Amjad Khan, the

why these students should so seriously protest against opening of a new course.

He further said that it was only logical that the syllabus at the ICVTR should be different too as it runs by foreign funds and its rules and regulations are framed by a governing body consisting of different Islamic countries.

It is wrong for the students to demand that the syllabus should be the same or that the govt should have some hands to make it so.

However, the recent strike and protests has done more