



# CAMPUS

## BUET : Where is the end ?

Sameena

BUET by the teachers  
BUET of the teachers

BUET for the teachers are some slogans that will attract one as he enters the engineering university campus. It is enough to give one some idea as to what is happening here. Although the post graduate classes have started from the 12th last the under graduate classes are yet to begin. No-one knows for certain when the students will again sit in their classrooms.

Already the students of BUET have lost one month of classes. About three weeks have passed since this institution was closed sine die on 26th October last following a fortnights boycott of classes by the students demanding increase in their scholarship amount and cancellation of class test.

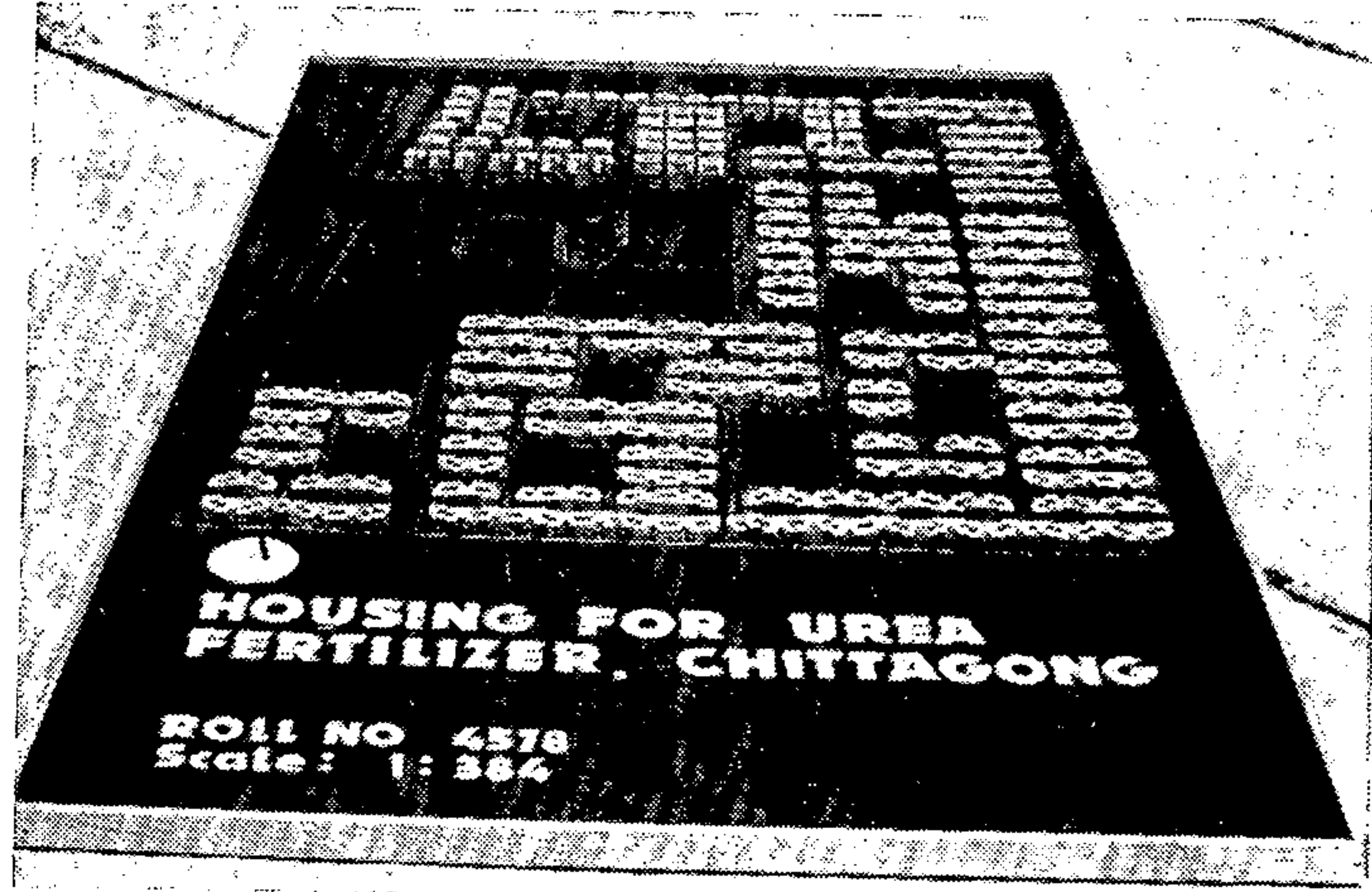
According to competent sources the crux of the problem is the class test issue with the scholarship being tagged to it. The students are in no way willing to sit for their class tests.

It may not be out of place to mention that even a couple of months back BUET was the educational institution of the country which had an academic calendar and where classes were held regularly although sessions here too, were running behind schedule.

But a decade back there was no such thing at BUET. The engineering students were out of the political arena being busy with their studies. Things have changed now, this institutions too is a hot bed of politics.

At BUET classes are held on a semester basis with an academic year consisting of two semesters of twelve weeks each. In each semester 20% of the total marks are allotted for the class test. This system has been running quite effectively since the 83-84 session. But now suddenly, the students have come up with a number of complaints against these class tests and are demanding its abolition.

According to some students the ghost of class test looms over them all the time and they cannot ever be tension free. In



A project of a student of BUET

a day, at time they even have as many as four tests and the teachers are least sympathetic to their case. As a result, they have to remain ever busy preparing for these class tests having very little time to go deeply into the text. Usually they depend on the class lectures or cheat in the examination hall. After six or seven hours class each day where is the time to study in depth ?

On the otherhand as the scholarship money particularly the govt. one (Tk 100 per month) is inadequate for their subsistence so a good number of the students have to take private tuition whether they like it or not for their survival and have little time after a hard day to prepare for the test.

Inadequate preparation has an effect on lowering the performance level of a student and lower the grade too.

But a good number of students are very much in favour of keeping the class tests because they feel that it spurs them to study hard which they would not do otherwise. As

a result they have to study the whole year and by doing so it is very easy to get 80% of the allotted marks in the class tests which helps to improve the proficiency level of a student and also his grades. This system is very hard on those students who are irregular and only study before the exams being preoccupied with this or that throughout the year.

The teachers of BUET themselves seem to be split on this issue with the majority favouring class tests. A Committee was earlier formed to look into this issue which submitted its report to the Academic Council on Oct 23rd's emergency meeting whereby abolition of class test was rejected and suggestions were made regarding holding class tests. But the students have turned those suggestions down saying that in the past too many such assurances were given by the BUET administration regarding class test and nothing tangible came out later on.

Regarding the scholarship issue the BUET authorities

have been assured by the Education Ministry that the amount of the scholarships of Tk 100 shall be increased in the near future. Moreover nothing can be done about the technical scholarships. The BUET authorities have already increased the amount of their scholarships two years back.

The situation seems to be a stalemate. The administration is sticking to its offer and the students are sticking to their demands. In the absence of a students union at this campus negotiation between students organisations and administration has become very difficult.

Meanwhile news is rife that the BUET authority might take disciplinary action against those who were involved in the agitation and physical assault of Prof Anwarul Haq, the Director of Students Welfare of BUET and another teacher after the closure order.

If this is done, the already murky situation may turn grave and it might be very difficult to control it.