

DAILY STAR

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BUET incident: 65 teachers contradict report

By Staff Correspondent

A section of BUET teachers yesterday contested reports that "the general students" abstained from attending classes at all on Thursday.

"All their classes except the first period were held as scheduled," they said in a statement.

Contradicting the claims by architecture students, 65 teachers, including the Dean of Architecture Prof Faruque A U Khan, signed the statement to say that "a portion of the adjoining fence" was indeed "cut open to let the students in" but that too was done to ensure safety of the protesting students.

"A very large number of students voicing their intention to attend classes on Thursday, were trying to force their way in. Since 40-50 students of Architecture department, including some girls, were preventing a large number of students from going to their classes, a number of teachers present and the Vice Chancellor took the initiative to repeatedly request them to open the gate. They ignored the appeal of their teachers and continued to argue and curse them.

"Fearing for the safety of these few architecture students, who could be possibly hurt by a possible stampede, the teachers ordered that a portion of the adjoining fence be cut open to let the students in. This move by the teachers saved the protesting architecture students who had earlier hacksawed the BUET lock and used their own locks to implement their strike."

They also claimed "the general students had brought out a procession the previous night soon after some students gave slogans calling for strike."

The statement also charged the resigning architecture teachers with "involving students and provoking them against their university" and called it an "unholy alliance."

Meanwhile, the BUET Registrar gave a similar statement and claimed that the classes were held as usual.