

Govt interference alleged

BUET VC, 60 teachers resign en masse

Varsity Correspondent

Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Iqbal Mahmud along with 60 teachers holding administrative posts of the university resigned en masse on Monday noon protesting what they said interference of the Government in the internal affair of the university.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Iqbal Mahmud faxed his resignation letter to the Secretary of the Chancellor of the University Prime Minister Sheikh Haina at 12 noon. Four syndicate members including two Government nominees also sent their resignation letters to Secretary of BUET Chancellor by fax following the resignation of Vice Chancellor. It could not be known whether the resignation letters were accepted or not.

Earlier, the heads of the 16 departments, directors of the six institutes, provosts of eight halls and 26 assistant provosts of different halls of the university submitted their resignation letters to the Vice-Chancellor of BUET before his resignation from the post of Vice-Chancellor.

Sources in the BUET, on condition of anonymity alleged that the interference from the Prime Minister's office asking for reinstatement of 13 teachers of Architecture Department of the University who had earlier resigned was the main cause of resignation of BUET VC and 60 other teachers.

It may be mentioned that 13 teachers of the Architecture Department of BUET resigned earlier protesting the newly introduced admission system for the Department of Architecture by the University authorities.

Meanwhile, BUET Officers' Association at an emergency meeting on Monday reviewed the situation of BUET that created a stalemate due to resignation of BUET Vice-Chancellor and 60 other teachers. It expressed deep concern over the interference of the Government in autonomy and administrative affairs of the university.

Chancellor's power

The Government source on Monday night explained the powers of the Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) as well as the ordinance, statutes, rules and regulations.

The powers of the Chancellor is as follow.

The Chancellor may, by order in writing, annul any proceeding of any of the Authorities which, in his/her

opinion, not in conformity with this ordinance, the statutes or the University Ordinances.

Provided that, before making any order, he/she shall, through the Vice-Chancellor, can call upon Authority

CU tense

10 Shibirites arrested

Chittagong Office

CHITTAGONG, May 4:—Ten college students, all Shibir activists were arrested by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police after a predawn raids on two government colleges today.

Of the arrested students, seven were from Chittagong College and three from Haji Mohammad Mahsin College. The arrested persons included President of Mahsin College unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir S.M. Abu Noman Al-Munir.

A huge contingent of police led by CMP Deputy Commissioner (north) Iftekhar Uddin Ahmed conducted two-hour long raids on these two prestigious government colleges

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concerned to show cause why such an order should not be made.

Every proposal may, for the conferment of an honorary degree shall be subject to confirmation by the Chancellor.

The Chancellor may if he/she is satisfied that exceptional circumstances seriously interfering with normal activities of the University exist, pass such order as he/she may consider necessary in the interest of the University and such orders shall be binding on the Authorities and their members and the officers, teachers and other employees of the University and shall be given effect to by the Vice-Chancellor.

UNB adds: Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the BUET Teachers Association on Monday evening decided to abstain from work indefinitely until impasse is resolved and situation improved.

The Association demanded that Dr Iqbal Mahmud would have to be retained as the VC and said they will not accept any one else in his place.

Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Dr Iqbal Mahmud, in his resignation submitted to the Chancellor and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, gave the reason as personal.

CU situation

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from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m.

The police first cordoned off Chittagong College and then undertook the intense search of the college's two hostels— Suhrawardy Hostel and Sher-e-Bangla Hostel and all other vulnerable points in the premises.

The Police finally arrested seven Shibir activists— all from Suhrawardy hostel and recovered eight rounds of cartridges from their possession.

The seven Shibir activists arrested from Suhrawardy hostel were Farukul Islam Sabuj, Faridul Islam, Tipu Sultan, Neyamutullah, Amjatur Islam Azad, Bashir Ahmed and Abu Noman.

Police then went to the adjacent hill-top Haji Mohammad Mahsin College and searched its lone hostel and premises for about 40 minutes.

Apart from S.M. Abu Noman, Al-Munir, a student of M.A. class, two other students were also arrested from Mohsin College Hostel. They were Amjad Hossain and Bashir Ahmed. But the police could not recover anything from their possession.

The leaders of the Islami Chhatra Shibir later in a statement to the press condemned what they called perpetration of brutalities on the innocent students in the two colleges.

APB adds: Situation in the Chittagong University remained tense on Monday as the Shibirites continued their siege to the campus unleashing a reign of terror.

The Shibir activists attacked the residence of the Vice Chancellor, set fire to a shuttle train, university buses and threatened a number of teachers over phone, campus sources said.

They ransacked the office of the Law Faculty Dean, Prof Shah Alam, in the morning and pulled down the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from its wall.

Later, they damaged the photograph in front of the office.

Police arrested two Shibir activists, Hannan and Zubayer, in the afternoon in a case filed by Prof Shah Alam with Hathazari police against 20 Shibirites.

Shibir calls hartal today

Shibir has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Chittagong division for tomorrow (Tuesday) to press home their demands, including resignation of the CU VC, release of their activists, freeing of the halls from outsiders and restoration of normalcy on the campus.