

Besu students back in class on inspection day

HT Correspondent

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IT WAS a day of high hopes for Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) as the secretary of the human resources development ministry visited the campus to inspect whether the university should be granted the status of Institute of National Importance (INI).

The students' agitation was stalled for a day as everyone attended their classes. "We did attend classes but we have not registered our attendance," said Abhigyan Bera, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student of the university.

The Ananth Krishnan Committee had earlier recommended INI status for Besu. Vice-chancellor N.R. Banerjea and principal secretary of higher education Ashok Mohon Chakraborty had gone to Delhi on August 1 to discuss the issue. The Centre has already asked the state to decide on the issue of governance.

Besu has bagged Rs 20 crore, of which Rs 10 crore has been spent on the bio-technology, chemical engineering and chemistry departments. Banerjee visited the civil engineering, applied mechanics, IT, chemistry, bio-technology and chemical engineering departments and spoke to teachers and students. He also visited the site where the HRD ministry grant is being used to construct two buildings. "We felt that he liked what he saw," registrar Indra Nath Sinha said.