

Students at Besu go to class, refuse roll call

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Howrah: Bengal Engineering and Science University (Besu) limped back to normal on Thursday, but just for a day.

"We went to class but didn't give roll call as a mark of protest. We will resume our agitation from tomorrow if the university doesn't sort out the impasse," said Debroy Sengupta, Independent Consolidation spokesperson.

Hence, there were no posters, no slogans no protests on campus on Thursday. "We maintained normalcy to ensure that Sudip Banerjee, secretary of the ministry of human resource development (MHRD) who was visiting the campus, didn't go back to Delhi with a negative impression. The agitation is likely to resume on Friday," said a student.

Banerjee reached the campus around 2 pm. "Besu is among the most esteemed educational institutions of the country," he said. But he didn't comment on granting the coveted IIT/IIM status to the university. "I shall report to the MHRD," Banerjee said.

The MHRD secretary said he wasn't concerned with the ongoing agitation. "The Centre has nothing to do with the problem and that won't affect the report. This is a state government issue and it is their duty to solve the violence in the university," he said. Agitating students, however, didn't want to take chances and trooped to class as usual.

Sengupta complained that the university authorities didn't honour their gesture. "A meeting was slated between the students and the Besu authority at 5.30 pm, but it was called off. We don't know why," Sengupta said.