

Students of seven colleges issue fresh ultimatum

DU Correspondent

AGITATING students of the seven colleges, previously affiliated with Dhaka University, issued a fresh 24-hour ultimatum on Tuesday, demanding justice for the recent attacks on their fellows.

They also issued a 15-day ultimatum for establishing an independent university to accommodate the seven colleges.

The announcement was made at a press conference at the Shaheed Minar premises of Dhaka College Tuesday evening.

On the day, University Grants Commission chairman Professor SMA Faiz and DU vice-chancellor Professor Niaz Ahmed Khan met with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus over the issues relating to seven colleges.

After the meeting, SMA Faiz told New Age that the discussion was fruitful and they would announce some development over the issue

on Thursday.

Earlier on the day, after a meeting with home affairs adviser retired Lieutenant General Jahangir Alam Chowdhury and information adviser Nahid Islam at the secretariat, the students had withdrawn their 24-hour ultimatum issued on Monday for the withdrawal of the police officers responsible for attacking the students during early Monday's clashes and the resignation of DU pro-vice-chancellor (education) professor Mamun Ahmed.

At the press conference Tuesday evening, agitating students said that they had not reached a satisfactory resolution yet and only one of their six initial demands, separating the seven colleges from the DU, was fulfilled.

Their fresh five demands include publishing a framework for the university within 15 days, commencing its operations within a month through a Presidential Or-

dinance, ensuring the continuation of ongoing examinations as per the existing schedule and accommodating current students under the new university upon its establishment.

Uncertainty looms over the fate of the students of DU-affiliated seven colleges as the university authorities on Monday decided to cancel their affiliation following the overnight clashes between the university students and the students of the colleges.

During the overnight clashes that began at about 11:30pm on Sunday and ended at about 4:00am on Monday on the DU campus, Nilkhet, and New Market areas, about 50 students and 25 police personnel were injured.

Meanwhile, education adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud on Tuesday at a programme in the capital said that the DU took the decision of cancelling their affiliation without discussing it with him.