

BAU stand-off drags on for 5th day

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The stand-off between the students of the Bangladesh Agricultural University and its authorities continued for the fifth consecutive day on Thursday.

On the day, no meeting was held between the protesting students and the teachers to reach a solution to the crisis that deepened on August 31 following a students-outsiders clash.

No decision was also made to resume the university's academic activities.

On August 31, the protesting students confined more than 250 teachers, the vice-chancellor among them, for about eight hours, demanding a degree combining two faculties, prompting the university authorities to shut down the institution for an indefinite period and issue a hall evacuation notice.

The teachers got free from confinement after someone had unlocked the gate of the building where they were held, when outsiders allegedly attacked the protesting students, triggering a clash.

Defying the order to vacate halls by September 1, the students continued their protests, pressing for a six-point demand.

They demanded an apology from the vice-chancellor, resignation of the proctorial body and action against outsiders and some teachers for the August 31 attack on students.

No case was filed in this regard till Thursday.

A five-hour meeting was held between the student representatives and a teachers' committee on Tuesday with vice-chancellor professor AK Fazlul Haque Bhuiyan taking part virtually.

On Wednesday, students decided to postpone their protests after assurances from the university authorities that they would withdraw the hall evacuation notice and resume academic activities within a week.

But a syndicate meeting scheduled for the day to implement the notice withdrawal decision was not held, prompting the students to continue with their protests.

The university's student affairs adviser, professor Shahidul Haque, also the head of the teachers' committee, said that no syndicate meeting or students-teachers meeting was held on Thursday.

BAU public relations and publications director (in charge) Mohammad Toufiqul Islam said that no case was filed over the August 31 incident till Thursday evening.