

Try Rubel's killers, IU students demand

By Staff Correspondent

The death of Shamim Reza Rubel in police custody on Thursday forced the students of the Independent University to take to the streets and demand trial of the killers of their "innocent" friend.

It was for the first time that the students of the university staged street protests yesterday since its inception in early '90s, said teachers, students and staff of the university.

The shocked students, now on a summer vacation, brought out a procession from in front of the Jatiya Press Club carrying a black banner to press their demand for justice.

Meanwhile, the Management Faculty members and

students of the university in a joint resolution yesterday appealed to the Chancellor of the university, President Shahabuddin Ahmed as well as to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to immediately institute a judicial enquiry into the alleged "brutal murder by one of the agencies of the government".

"They (police) are giving a wrong message to the society," said a teacher of the university, speaking on the role of police.

Rubel's Academic Advisor and Economics teacher of the university, Aminur Rahman, described Rubel as "a politic young man and a brilliant student".

Rahman said Rubel has been given 40 per cent waiver in tuition fees since his first semester as a reward for his academic performance. "It is not very usual in our university."

"There is no scope for organising any procession or rally as the students are always busy with their studies. Besides, there is no student politics," said another teacher of the university's School of Business.

About two hours before Rubel was picked up by the plainclothesmen, he was seen among friends on the campus happily talking over his getting a good grade in a paper, rated very difficult, said one of his classmates and a close friend.

Lecture rooms, computer laboratory and library were the places Rubel used to frequent, his friends said and added, he was a serious and good student.

A large number of students came to the university campus at Baridhara throughout the day yesterday to mourn Rubel's death.

The faculty, students and management of the university at a condolence meeting in the campus yesterday noon strongly condemned the "killing" in police custody.