



JU students end hunger strike

JU Correspondent

THE agitating students of Jahangirnagar University ended their fast-unto-death programme on Monday following an assurance from the university authorities on withdrawal of a case filed against 56 fellows.

The Jahangirnagar University filed the case against the students, accusing them of attempting to murder the Vice Chancellor and vandalism on her residence on May 27.

Students broke their fastunto-death programme by drinking water as a group of teachers' representative went to the University Saheed Minar premises to assure them about taking steps for withdrawal of the case.

JU pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Amir Hussain, treasurer Professor Manzarul Huq, JU Teachers Association president Professor Farid Ahmed were among others present there.

A total of eight students took the fast-unto-death programme in phases starting on Saturday as they demanded the withdrawal of the case.

Four students – Faisal Ahmed of philosophy department, Nayeemul Alam Mishu of Bengali department, Tasnuva Tazin Eva of journalism and media studies department and Ratul Khalid of anthropology department of the university – joined the programme on Monday.

Tahmina Jahan Tuli, Sarder Zahid and Puja Biswas fell sick on the third day of the strike, prompting an on-duty medical doctor to treat them with medicine on the spot.

Tuli of English department and Khan Muntasir Arman of law and justice department joined the strike on Sunday morning, expressing their solidarity with Sarder Zahid and Puja Biswas, who had started the strike on Saturday.

The JU authorities earlier in an emergency meeting of the syndicate on Sunday had asked the agitating students to withdraw their programme.

On May 26, marketing department student Nazmul Hasan Rana and microbiology student Arafat were killed as a bus hit a human hauler carrying them on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's C&B bus stand area.

The agitating students blocked the highway following the fatal accident demanding a speed-barrier on the spot. But police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters to disperse them, leaving at least 10 people, including students, a JU official and two journalists, injured.

Angry students besieged the VC's residence and held a demonstration following police intervention in their demonstration.

Police had detained 42 students, who were later shown arrested after a case was filed by university Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique accusing them of an attempt to murder and vandalism.

The next day, all 42 students, however, were released on bail.

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