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Fulbaria College protest postponed

Minister promises to work for nationalisation of the college

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The ongoing movement for nationalisation of Fulbaria Degree College in the district has been postponed for one month, following discussion between the representatives of agitating teachers and students, and the political leaders and administration officials.

Meanwhile, normalcy is returning in Fulbaria municipal area after withdrawal of Section 144 on Tuesday night.

The local administration had imposed the Section on Sunday midnight as a flame of protest spread in Fulbaria municipality after Abul Kalam Azad, 55, assistant professor of botany department of Fulbaria Degree College, and passer-by Safor Ali, 65, were killed during a clash between police and demonstrating teachers and students on Sunday noon.

Over 100 others were also injured, 10 of them seriously, as police swooped on the demonstrators in Fulbaria that time.

The teachers, students and local people started the agitation one and a half months ago after the college was left out from the nationalisation list.

Established in 1972, Fulbaria

Degree College has six thousand students and 102 teachers and the institution runs honours course in seven subjects, in addition to intermediate and degree (pass) courses, said the college teachers.

But it was deprived of nationalisation although Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila College, a non-MPO college, established in 2009 in the upazila, was nationalised, said teachers and students.

Advocate Emdadul Haque Selim, son of AL lawmaker Muslem Uddin, is the president of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Mohila College governing body.

A delegation of the agitating teachers and students held a meeting with Religious Affairs Minister; Principal Motiur Rahman, lawmaker Muslem Uddin, Mymensingh Divisional Commissioner GM Saleh Uddin, Deputy Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al Mamun, Deputy Commissioner Md Khalilur Rahman, Superintendent of Police Syed Nurul Islam at Mymensingh Circuit House yesterday afternoon.

"Following the discussion, we have postponed our protest programmes for one

month. The minister assured us that he will work for nationalisation of the college," said college teacher SM Abul Hashem, also convenor of Phulbaria Degree College Nationalisation Committee.

It was also decided that the present committee will be dissolved and college governing body President Muslem Uddin and college Principal Nasir Uddin Khan will resign from the posts soon, the teachers said.

Teachers and students went to Fulbaria Degree College yesterday although there were no classes due to holiday, said Mashrufa Sultana Mimi, a teacher of the college.

A two-member team of National Human Rights Commission Bangladesh led by Akhter Hossain visited the college yesterday and talked to the teachers, students and local people, colleges sources said.

In connection with Sunday's bloody incident, a brother of killed Safor Ali filed an unnatural death case while police filed a case for assaulting law enforcers accusing 400 to 500 unidentified people.

Four separate probe bodies were formed to investigate the incident.