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CU students begin fast unto death

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 29: More than 100 students of the Chittagong University under the banner of 'General Students Society (GSS)' began fast unto death in front of the administrative building on the campus today demanding reopening of the university.

The university is closed for the last four months, making academic life of 14,000 students uncertain.

The stalemate began after two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were killed in a gunbattle with the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus on December 19, last year.

The guardians and relatives of three CU students killed recently in campus violence also observed hunger strike at Chittagong press club today, demanding arrest of the killers.

Meanwhile, Chittagong university authorities held a meeting with university teachers at its science gallery for exchanging views on the CU crisis.

Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Abu Yusuf Alam was absent in the meeting that continued for two and a half hours from 12 noon, campus sources said.

Vice Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan, and other teachers, including Amran Hossain, Dr

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CU students

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Salauddin Ahmed, Yusuf Sharif Khan, Haibat Hossain Mahbub Ullah and Monir Ahmed spoke in the meeting.

Meeting sources said some teachers were critical of the CU authorities for the stalemate and suggested for appointment of new VC and pro-VC for ending the crisis.

But the incumbent VC in his speech said that appointment of new VC and pro-VC won't bring the solution to the crisis.

However, the meeting ended inconclusively, sources said.

UNB adds: the Syndicate has decided to hold an emergency meeting at 11 am tomorrow to discuss campus situation.

During the hunger strike Alamgir, a final year student of English Department, burnt his books, notes and papers to show his anger against continued violence on the campus.

The striking students blamed the university authorities, political parties and government for creating the stalemate.

They vowed to continue the programme until positive steps were taken by the authorities to reopen the university.

Another group of general students and guardians staged a sit-in at New Market from 10 am to 1 pm against the deadlock on the campus.

They announced that they would march towards the campus on May 3 and stage a sit-in at No 1 gate.

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