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NEWAGE

Protesters on strike for JU VC's resignation

JU Correspondent | Updated at 12:07am on October 03, 2019



JU protesters are seen on campus demanding resignation of vice-chancellor on Wednesday, October 2, 2019. — UNB photo

Teachers and students under the banner of Jahangirnagar against Corruption began their two-day strike at Jahangirnagar University on Wednesday demanding resignation of vicechancellor Professor Farzana Islam for her reported indulgence in corruption and irregularities.

During the strike, pickets occupied the transport depot on Tuesday midnight and no buses left the campus for Dhaka.

Some 20 to 30 protesters laid siege to the old administrative building from 7:00am to 3:00pm that badly hampered administrative activities of the university.

No class was held, however, some examinations were taken by students in some departments.

The anti-corruption campaigners went on strike on Wednesday as an ultimatum to the vice-chancellor expired on Tuesday.

At about 12:00pm the agitators brought out a procession which ended at a rally in front of the old administrative building.

Shahidul Islam Pappu, one of the protestors said, 'We gave an ultimatum to the vice-chancellor to resign from her post, but she denied our demand. We were forced to go on such kind of of tough programme.'

Meanwhile, VC-backed teacher group 'Bangabandhu Shikkhak Parishad' formed a human chain at the university Shaheed Minar demanding punishment of the protesters who are blaming the vice-chancellor and her family for being involved in corruption and who are spreading rumours to tarnish the image of the vice-chancellor.

Addressing the rally, Professor Ajit Kumar Majumder said, 'A vicious circle is trying to create unrest at the university. They are trying to hamper the development activities of the university.'

However, he hoped to solve the problem through discussion with all bodies of the university.

About the demand for her resignation, vice chancellor Farzana Islam told the media that she would not resign from her post, and also said the protesters' demand was

willogical.

About the formation of an investigation body, she said, 'I informed UGC, education ministry, and prime minister's office and asked them to handle the situation. Now, they will make decision about the investigation as I should not form an investigation committee to look into the allegations against me.'

Students started protests on August 23 demanding judicial inquiry into the reported involvement of the vice-chancellor and her family in corruption and mismanagement of Tk 1445 crore development projects on the campus.

Teachers and students demanded resignation of the VC as an initiative to launch a judicial inquiry faltered on September 18.

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