

Withdrawal of all cases demanded 8 DU students walk to freedom from jail

The eight Dhaka University students who were exonerated from campus-violence charges Tuesday were all released from Dhaka Central Jail on Wednesday, reports UNB.

An eyewitness account said five of them—Jahidul Islam Biplob, Manabendra Dev, Deen Islam Angel, Deon Islam and Rafiqul Islam Shujon—walked to freedom together at around 11:15am.

Later, Lilon Mahmud and Moniruzzaman Sarder were released at 4pm. Of them, Lilon was discharged from the case of car torching on August 21 while Moniruzzaman acquitted along with teacher Neem Chandra Bhoumik from case-no 51.

And lastly came out Asaduzzaman, who was discharged from the car-torching case, at 6:15pm.

Meanwhile, a trial court in Syl-

het Wednesday acquitted a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) of the charge of violating the Emergency Powers Rules following the Dhaka University campus unrest.

Jailer of Dhaka Central Jail Shafiqul Islam told UNB that the three students' release took time as their release orders came late to the prison authorities.

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DU students

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Earlier, students, admirers and relatives received the five DU students at the jail gate with flowers on their release after nearly five months of detention.

The triumphant people straight proceeded to Central Shahid Minar and then went to Aparajeya Bangla to join a teacher-student solidarity gathering.

Seven of them were excused through withdrawal of the cases against them in connection with the last August campus rioting in a backlash against an incident of brawl between students and army troops deployed in the DU area under the current state of emergency.

The other student, Moniruzzaman, was exonerated by presidential mercy order along with three of their four detained teachers.

Meanwhile, the released DU teachers and other teacher-leaders at the solidarity meet said that they would wear black badges and fly a black flag atop Arts Building for the next seven days for realizing their demand for withdrawal of all cases filed against students of different universities and colleges across the country.

Moniruzzaman and Dhaka University Teachers Association president Prof Sadrul Amin and general secretary Prof Anwar Hossain and Social Sciences faculty dean Prof Harun-ur Rashid were Tuesday sentenced to two years imprisonment for breaking emergency rules. The other accused teacher, Applied Physics and Electronics department chairman Prof Nimchandra Bhoumik, was acquitted by the CMM court.

Later in the day on Tuesday, the President granted clemency to the three convicted teachers and the student under a government-initiated process of setting free the detained teachers and students of different universities in the wake of fast-spreading agitation for their release. The four teachers were set free immediately.

"We have received the release order of five students from the CMM court. But the release order of the rest three didn't reach our

hands yet. We will release them as soon as we receive their release orders." DIG (prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui had earlier told UNB when contacted after the release of the five students at the first go.

On Tuesday, police had submitted the final report to the CMM court with an appeal for release of the seven students who were arrested on charge of setting fire to an army vehicle in front of Aziz Supermarket on August 21 in the wake of student unrest.

Chief metropolitan magistrate Golam Rabbani accepted the report and ordered the release of the students.

In Sylhet, the district speedy trial court acquitted Mostafizur Rahman Raju, a 4th-year student of Mass Communication and Political Science department at the university.

Judge Matiar Rahman handed down the verdict of the case filed against Raju and 30 other unidentified persons with Kotwali police station on September 5 last year.

They were sued for bringing out a procession and holding rally on the SUST campus in protest against an "attack" on DU students by law-enforcers. Later, on September 13, police submitted charge sheet accusing only Raju in the case.

He was sent to jail when he surrendered before the court last Monday, as a government process got off for release of all the teachers and students of Dhaka and other universities and colleges charged with the breach of emergency.

On Monday, the President pardoned four students of Dhaka University and 10 students of Rajshahi University and a driver of a former RU vice-chancellor convicted by courts for their involvement in the August campus unrest in defiance of the emergency.

The process of exoneration was set off with the release of four convicted Rajshahi University teachers on December 10 and completed on Wednesday.