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‘Nation’s moral conscience stained’ Freed teachers vow not to tolerate wrongdoing

DU Correspondent

Four released teachers of Dhaka University (DU) on Wednesday categorically said they would continue their programme to speak out the truth against wrongdoing as Dhaka University is the ‘conscience’ of the nation.

They urged the government to withdraw the State of Emergency and hand over power to the elected government through

holding a free, fair and credible election. They demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against the teachers and students in connection with the August 20-22 incidents last year.

They made the demand at a teachers-students solidarity meeting at the foot of Aparajeya Bangla on the DU campus. Dhaka University Teachers Association

(DUTA) organized the programme.

Prof. Anwar Hossain brought a sweeping allegation that a small section of securitymen created the reign of ‘scare’. “Bangladesh army is not opponent of the country’s students, teachers and other people. But a small section of army men is trying to stand up against the whole army as oppo-

nents,” Prof. Anwar said.

He claimed the DU teachers did not commit any crime during the August movement, as they stood by the imperiled students as guardians.

“As teachers we cannot tolerate any crime. The students had protested misdeeds of joint forces and we had just stood by them. But we
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were thrown in jail! The only reason is that evil force is afraid of Dhaka University which is the conscience of the country,” said Anwar.

About the role of army in country’s politics, he said, “Don’t do politics wearing uniforms. You are violating rules and regulations of your jobs.”

Prof. Anwar also General Secretary of DUTA urged the caretaker government to lift the state of emergency and declare specific date of general election. The main task of the caretaker government is to hold election. “We are not satisfied on election roadmap,” he further said.

Narrating torture and harassment, Prof. Anwar said that some Army and officers of DGF conducted inhumanity repression on our teachers and students during their detention in the last few months.

Prof. Sadrul Amin, President of DUTA said that it was unfortunate that teachers and students had to stay in jail. He demanded the government of withdrawal of all cases filed against the teachers and students in connection with the August incidents last year.

Five of the released DU students and their parents, and wives and children of the released teachers also joined the solidarity meeting.

Freed teachers vow

Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Editor of The Bangladesh Observer said that the verdict against the teachers has stained the moral conscience of the nation.

Prof. Harun-or-Rashid, Dean of Social Science Faculty said “We’ve struggled for the truth.” If necessary we will be in jail for five years instead of two years but we cannot let the image of the university be destroyed, he said adding that they will raise their voice against repression and injustice.

He demanded withdrawal of all cases in connection with the August incidents to ensure congenial educational atmosphere on the campus.

Prof. Nim Chandra Bhawmik, Chairman of Applied Physics and Electronic Department said that the movement of teachers and students on August is to protest against wrong and to establish truth, he said.

“The cases filed against the teachers has proved to be false.” He demanded the government of holding free and fair election through lifting the state of emergency.

Former President of DUTA Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof. Mesbah Kamal, Prof. Akhtaruzzaman,

Prof. MM Akash, Dr. Samad, Writer Syed Shamsul Haq, Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, Dr. KM Saiful Islam Khan and Dr. Kamrul Hasan Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Family members of the released students also took part at the programme. They are Md. Idris Ali, father of Deen Islam Angel, Abdul Halim Sheikh, father of Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Shahina Akter, mother of Zahidul Islam Biplob and Doli Dev, mother of Manabendra Dev