

TEACHERS' PROTESTS

JU senate session postponed

Staff Correspondent

THE annual session of the senate of Jahangirnagar University was postponed on Friday in the face of protests from the teachers demanding the resignation of vice-chancellor Md Anwar Hossain.

The senate session, where the university's annual budget for 2013-14 financial year was supposed to be placed at 4:00pm, was postponed as the JU Teachers' Associations laid siege to the administrative building.

Anwar Hossain along with 15-20 senate members tried to enter the Zahir

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Raihan auditorium, but they were barred by the protesting teachers.

Rejecting the request from the vice-chancellor some senate members for allowing holding the senate session peacefully, the protesting teachers said that they wanted no administrative activities unless Anwar resigned as the vice-chancellor.

Talking to reporters, Anwar said that the university authorities failed to hold the senate meeting due to protests from teachers.

Chemistry professor Enamullah Pervez, also a senate member, told reporters that about 16 senate members had joined the protests boycotting the senate session.

The teachers association had earlier decided that no administration related activities, including senate, syn-

dicate and academic council meetings, would be allowed to be held under the incumbent vice-chancellor.

Another senate member Syed Md Kamrul Ahsan, also arts faculty dean, said that neither academic nor administrative activities would be allowed under the incumbent vice-chancellor.

'We will continue with our protests until the VC resigns,' he said.

Meanwhile, the JU Officers Association also staged a demonstration at the administrative building for increasing the retirement age at 62 years from existing 60.

Additional police were deployed on the campus to avoid any untoward situation.

The teachers association have been demanding the vice-chancellor's resignation as he reportedly did not take punitive action against a Chhatra League leader for

his allegedly assaulting a teacher on April 6.

They also declared Anwar persona non grata on the campus accusing him of making indecent comment on the university and its teachers, irregularities in admissions and destroying the bio-diversity of the campus.

A statement issued by Jahangirnagar University public relation office director Mir Abul Kahsem on Friday urged the university teachers to postpone their protests in the interest of normal academic atmosphere.

The statement claimed that the demands of the teachers association had already been met.

The teachers association alleged that Anwar had refused to punish university unit Chhatra League general secretary Rajib Ahmed Russell for assaulting economics department teacher

Nurul Haque.

They also said that the vice-chancellor was trying to save Rajib and had claimed that Rajib was innocent.

The teachers association also demanded that Anwar should resign as the vice-chancellor on allegation of irregularities in admission and teachers' appointment and destroying ecology on the campus.

The statement said that the teachers were appointed and students were admitted based on merit, experience and skills.

The vice-chancellor has not destroyed the ecology on campus, rather he is working for beautification of the campus, the release said.

Anwar Hossain took charge of the university after his predecessor Sharif Enamul Kabir resigned in the face of protests from students and teachers.