

CITY

JU students call off blockade

Authorities assure them of steps to withdraw case soon

JU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday called off their ongoing blockade of the administrative building after getting assurance from the university authorities that steps will be taken to withdraw the vandalism case against 56 of their fellows.

The decision was made following a meeting between representatives of the students and the administration on Thursday.

The university authorities also issued a statement in this regard the same day, signed by Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique. According to the statement, the authorities also expressed grief over the police attack and harassment on the students.

"We have reached a reasonable and proper solution....," said JU pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Amir Hussain.

Nazmul Hossain, general secretary of Jahangirnagar Cultural Alliance, who was present at the meeting, said, "We hope the administration would begin the proceedings to withdraw the case soon."

Student protesters blocked the administrative building for the past four days, demanding withdrawal of the case filed by the JU registrar. On July 17, four students ended their hunger strike after the authorities assured them of it.

On May 26, two JU students were killed as a bus hit a human haulier carrying them on Dhaka-Aricha highway in Savar's C&B bus stand area. Agitating students then blocked the highway, demanding speed breakers there. But police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters to disperse them. At least 10 people, including students, a JU official and two journalists, were injured. Later, they besieged the VC's house. During the demonstration, 42 students were held and later shown arrested in the vandalism case.