

JU dorms reopen Thursday

Case not withdrawn; protest on

JU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Jahangirnagar University (JU) have decided to reopen all the dormitories on Thursday. They will also provide Tk 5 lakh each as compensation to the families of the two JU students who died in a road crash on May 27.

The decisions were made at an emergency syndicate meeting yesterday with JU Vice Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam in the chair, said Registrar Abu Bakr Siddique.

But the authorities are yet to take any decision regarding withdrawal of the case against 42 students, who protested the deaths of two fellows.

They will consider the students' demand for withdrawal of the case and take necessary steps after consulting with the university's legal advisers, said the registrar.

Police will be deployed in front of the VC's office, halls and other key places on the campus to ensure safety, he added.

A section of the students have been demanding withdrawal of the case, opening of the dormitories, formation of a fair probe body to investigate what happened on the campus following the deaths of two students, compensation for the victims' families, placing speed breakers and enforcing speed

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limit of 30km per hour from Bismail area to the campus.

They welcomed the syndicate's decisions to reopen the dormitories and compensate the victims' families but criticised the authorities for not taking any decision regarding the case's withdrawal.

JU Teachers-Students Unity Platform also criticised the authorities for that.

"We will form a human chain on JU Shaheed Minar premises around 11:00am today," said Prof Nassem Akhter Hossain, convener of the platform, at a press conference on the campus yesterday.

Meanwhile, a section of JU students at a press conference at Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen reiterated the demands, reports a correspondent. Oliur Rahman Sani, a JU English department student, read out a written statement.

Earlier on May 27, two JU students -- Nazmul Hasan Rana, 24, of marketing department, and Arafat, 24, of microbiology, were killed as a bus rammed a human-haulier carrying them on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in C&B bus stand area of Savar around 5:00am.

Following the incident, hundreds of students blocked the highway in front of the university's main entrance and Joy Bangla

Gate separately around noon.

At least 10 persons, including students, a JU official and two journalists, were injured when police and Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of JU unit tried to disperse the demonstrators in three separate incidents.

Later that day, demanding punishment for the BCL men, students laid siege to the VC's residence. Following that, 42 JU students were detained by the law enforcers as the JU registrar filed the case with Ashulia Police Station on May 28 against 50 students mentioning the names of 31, bringing allegation that the students have carried out vandalism on the campus during the agitation.

However, the students were released on bail the next day. The JU authorities also asked all the residential students to vacate their dormitories by May 28.

A six-member probe body was formed on May 28, led by Prof Asit Baron Paul, which was asked to submit a report within 10 days. The Teachers-Students Unity Platform, however, demanded formation of a new probe body as they claimed the current one has two JU syndicate members.

Meanwhile, expressing solidarity with the JU students, over 50 students and teachers of South Asian University formed a human chain on its campus in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

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