

Freed teachers, students vow to continue protests against injustice

4 DU teachers walk out of Jail

Four teachers of Dhaka University (DU) were released from prison on Tuesday. Of the four teachers three got presidential mercy and the rest one was released by the court order.

The teachers released through presidential mercy are Prof. Sadrul Amin, Prof. Anwar Hossain and Prof. Harun-or-Rashid. Earlier, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court convicted the three of the four detained teachers for violating Emergency Power Rules (EPR) and sentenced them for two years of simple imprisonment. Prof Nim Chandra Bhowmick was however acquitted by the court.

A notification issued in this regard by the Ministry of Home Affairs said, "In exercise of his powers under article 49 of the Constitution, the President condoned the offences of the convicted DU teachers through showing his clemency."

On receipt of the notification from the home ministry carrying the presidential mercy for three of the four teachers were released from the Dhaka Central Jail at about 5.15 pm after five months in detention.

Teachers, students, admirers and relatives in hundreds greeted them at the jail gate with flowers. President Prof Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed on Tuesday pardoned them in a speedy move relating to August rioting case. But there were no appeals for mercy by their respective families seeking presidential mercy.

The government withdrew all cases against teachers and students in connection with the August 20-22 student unrest. It is a successful move that refers an end to months of tensions on

campus.

On his release from jail first, Prof. Nimchandra Bhowmick said that he would not leave the jail without his colleagues who were sentenced for two years' imprisonment.

Hanif Md. Faisal

15 students of the same charges. Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told newsmen that the jail authorities had freed the teachers after receiving documents of presidential clemency. The prison official said that they could not free Moniruz-zaman, one of the 15 students acquitted by the court, as jail authorities did not receive any support document on his freedom.

Meanwhile, two groups of Dhaka University teachers tied to the Awami League and left parties on Tuesday rejected the court verdict that sentenced three teachers to two years in jail for breaking emergency rule last year, reports bdnews24.com.

The teachers called upon the public to stand beside them through the "hard days."

Up to 20 DU teachers belonging to the two groups assembled at the Battola on the campus in a midday demonstration to protest the court verdict, reported bdnews24.com correspondents Janmatul Ferdous and Gofam Mortuja Antu from the campus.

"The judgment has simply wounded us. DU is passing hard days," said Muntasir Mamun, a professor of history.

"We'd request all to stand beside us as they did in the past—in 1969, 1971 and in 1990."

"Protesting injustice and misrule has been our tradition and heritage through the past century-long life of the university, leading the country and the nation to realising a number of its cherished goals, including independence," Prof Muntasir said.

"This military-backed government wants to see us trampled under the boots. We'll not allow that to happen. We want our teachers be freed with honour."

Professor Mesbah Kamal said: "The teachers and students here are no criminals. They just happened to speak up when the sanctity of the university was violated."

"We are here today to protest the verdict as it was not at all an

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4 DU teachers

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Professor Anwar Hossain and social sciences faculty dean Professor Harun-or-Rashid to two-year imprisonment, while acquitting applied physics and electronics department chairman Professor Nimchandra Bhowmick and 15 students.

Student organizations of Dhaka University (DU) burst into protests on Tuesday amid tight security rejecting the court verdict. They demanded that the government should stop "playing game" with the contentious issues. Students of DU under three banners rejected the verdict that sentenced three teachers for two years imprisonment on Tuesday. They brought out processions on the campus amid tight security to denounce the verdict.

Leading student organizations including the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) expressed their solidarity and staged demonstration on DU campus on the same demand. Student against repression" and "Chhatra Bandhu" led the programme.

Members of law enforcing agencies were put on alert in and outside the campus to avoid any untoward incident.



From the left: Professor Nim Chandra Bhowmick, Prof. Anwar Hossain, Prof. Harun-or-Rashid, Prof. Sadrul Amin, all teachers of Dhaka University were released after being detained for two years. They were garlanded them at the gate of Dhaka Central Jail.

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