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Students firm on held teachers release

Matin assures of respectful solution to DU crisis

DU Correspondent

Teachers of Pro-Awami League (Blue Panel) of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) gave the government a seven-day timeframe to release the detained teachers and students of the university with the concluding of legal procedures.

They made the deadline at an emergency requisition meeting on

Wednesday to ensure the release of the teachers and students.

They also announced a series of agitation programmes to realize their demand. The programmes included hoisting black flag at the top of Administrative Building, wear black badges everyday, abstention from classes on January 21 and solidarity rally with the

teachers and students on January 23.

But teachers of Pro-BNP (White Panel) said that it their was not necessary to launch such agitation programme.

However, new Home Affairs Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin on Wednesday sought some time from agitating teachers and stu-

dents of DU to reach a respectable solution over the much talked about issue.

When the government is yet to find an immediate option to release the detained teachers and students of DU through court's judgement, he made this revealing appeal to the agitating teachers

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Matin assures

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and students and requested them not to go for any hard programme.

Showing high respect towards the teachers, he said, "We've respect and sympathy for both the teachers and the students." "I urge them to give me some time without announcing any hard programme," he added.

Referring to the order of Court he said, "The court can decide whether the teachers are guilty. But we are not waiting for court's judgement to find out a solution." He explained his stand as saying, "We're looking for a respectable solution for both the sides."

Asked about the timeframe for bringing about a solution, the Home Affairs Adviser expressed his inability to set the timetable as he stated that he would discuss the matter with concerned ministries.

About the reported torture on DU students during their detention, Matin said that it was inhuman and he did not support such treatment. He urged all concerned not to be violent about the recurrence of torture.

Meanwhile, agitating students of DU under the banner "Chhatra Bandhu" a platform of combined student organisations planned to enforce a strike on the DU campus today (Thursday) demanding immediate unconditional release of the detained teachers and students of the university.

Staging a silent demonstration at foot of Aparajeya Bangla on Wednesday, they made the call saying no classes and exams were held on the day. They said that they would resist any obstacle from anyone including teachers and law enforcing agencies to halt

their protest programme.

As part of protest programme, students of DU under the banner 'Student against repression' continuing boycott of classes and staged solidarity rally and street drama on the campus to press home their demand. They announced greater agitation and gave the government five-day ultimatum fixing Friday to withdraw the cases filed against them and free them in a dignified way.

Four teachers and 15 students of DU were arrested and facing cases for breaching Emergency Powers Rules (EPR) during the student unrest on August 20-22 last year in and around the campus.