

## JU teachers abstain from work as proctor assaults JUTA chief

Staff Correspondent

TEACHERS in Jahangirnagar University began skipping academic and administrative duties as the proctor assaulted the teachers' association president at its meeting on Thursday demanding campus safety after the killing of Zubair Ahmed, tortured to death by Chhatra League activists.

The teachers also gave authorities 24 hours to remove the proctorial body

for its failure to protect the students and for the assault of the Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association president, AA Mamun, by the proctor, Arju Miah.

They also demanded that Arju Miah should be punished in keeping with the 'efficiency and discipline' rules of the university.

They also called for a judicial investigation of the killing of Zubair Ahmed, a fourth-year English depart-

ment student who was tortured on Sunday by a faction of Chhatra League activists said to be loyal to the vice-chancellor and died from his injuries on Monday.

They demanded that the investigation committee set up by the university administration should be disbanded as it has links with the activists who attacked Zubair.

They also demanded that the people responsible for the killing should be identi-

fied, rusticated and handed over to the police.

The authorities on Tuesday expelled three students, primarily found to be responsible for the killing, for life amid protests by students and teachers. The authorities on Monday expelled the three for a year.

They accused the vice-chancellor, Shariff Enamul Kabir, of patronising hooligans and warned him of

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## JU teachers abstain from work

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movement to push for his removal if he failed to meet the demands by the deadline.

Teachers rallying under the banner of Shikshak Samaj said that the teachers' association had a meeting on Wednesday to review the situation after the death of Zubair but it was adjourned till Thursday morning.

As the adjourned meeting resumed at 11:00am in the university auditorium, some teachers loyal to the vice-chancellor began shouting and making irrelevant comments, the association's general secretary Sharif Uddin said on Thursday.

'One of them demanded resignation of the association president for not praising the role of the vice-chancellor and it triggered a chaos that prompted the president to adjourn the meeting again,' he added.

'When the association president and I were leaving the meeting room, the proctor and his followers rushed to us,' Sharif said. 'At one point when he was jostling with us, the proctor Arju Miah attacked the association president AA Mamun.'

Manosh Chowdhury, a teacher of anthropology, said, 'When AA Mamun was coming out of the meeting room, Arju Miah grabbed AA Mamun by the lapel of his coat and was shaking him until others rescued him.'

All the teachers but the vice-chancellor and his followers, along with AA Mamun, went to the university Shaheed Minar where they held a brief rally.

Mamun at the rally said, 'I am shocked at such inhuman attitude of the proctor. If the administration fails to punish him, we will wage a movement for the removal of the vice-chancellor.' He then fell sick.

The teachers then rushed towards the administrative building to lay siege to the vice-chancellor's office but he was not in his office.

The teachers then had a consultation and announced programmes at a briefing at the lounge of the social sciences faculty.

The teachers loyal to the vice-chancellor, meanwhile, also held a briefing where they accused their opponents of protecting the interest of certain groups. They also questioned the absence of the teachers on demonstrations from the human chain on the day that demanded war crimes trial.

The proctor outright denied assaulting AA Mamun and brushed aside the demand for his removal. He also refused to shoulder the responsibility for Zubair's death branding it a 'political killing.'

'We have expelled three students and initiated an investigation. So I do not think that I need to resign,' he added.

He remained silent when reporters asked him about his presence in the celebrations of the 64th founding anniversary of the Chhatra League with the people suspected of killing Zubair.

After the killing of Zubair, the university administration and the Chhatra League central committee said that the organisation had no link

with the incident as there has been committee of the organisation in the university.

The students continued boycotting classes and protesting against the killing of Zubair for the fourth consecutive day, bringing out processions and holding rallies and demonstrations. They also alleged that Chhatra League activists had forced the general students at the halls of residence to attend its programme.

Police deployment was reinforced on the campus, said Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, additional superintendent of police of Dhaka.

Former students of the university along with current students formed a human chain in front of the Amar Ekusey monument, condemning activities of the Chhatra League and asking the university authorities to meet the student's demand. They also demanded a judicial investigation of Zubair's death and bringing all the people responsible for the killing to justice.

The former students condemned the steps the authorities took after the killing and said that they were hogwash. They said that the university authorities need to take the responsibility for Zubair's death. They will hold demonstrations in Dhaka today.

Activists of a faction of the university unit Chhatra League who cannot go to campus for lack of security at a briefing, meanwhile, in Dhaka said that the vice-chancellor needed to shoulder the responsibility for the death and sought the prime