

DEATH-SPARKED RAMPAGE

JU teachers ask VC to resign

JU Correspondent

THE Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association on Wednesday gave the vice-chancellor, Anwar Hossain, 72 hours to resign for his alleged failure to ensure an academic atmosphere that has not been in place on the campus since his appointment July 2012.

The ultimatum was triggered by a general outrage in the university at its inadequate health services and the lack of ambulance service that delayed a sick student being sent to hospital by an hour on Tuesday night. By the time the student was taken to a hospital, he had already died.

The death and the preceding events set off violence on the campus with students running riot, attacking quarters of the university top brass and blocking the Dhaka-Aricha Road.

Anwar in the afternoon announced his decision to resign 'as early as possible' and later in the night withdrew his decision.

He withdrew his decision as Chhatra League activists along with some other students and some teachers requested him to cancel his decision to quit. 'I withdrew my decision at the request of teachers and students,' Anwar told New Age at night.

The vice-chancellor at a news conference at the JU senate building earlier in the day said, 'I have decided to resign from my post, showing respect to teachers' decision. I take all liabilities of the incident.'

The formal process of resignation will be completed as early as possible, he said.

After the news conference, riling Awami League-backed

Continued on page 4 Col. 5

JU teachers ask VC to resign

Continued from page 1

Chhatra League activists blocked the Dhaka-Aricha Road for an hour, demanding that Anwar should cancel his decision to quit.

They also took stand in front of the vice chancellor's residence at 8:00pm, declaring not to allow Anwar to take his resignation letter for submission to the president, who is also the ex-officio chancellor of the university.

Earlier in the day, the JU Teachers' Association issued the 72-hour ultimatum for the VC to resign on charge of his alleged failure to ensure an academic atmosphere on the campus since his appointment to the office in July 2012.

The teachers' platform also demanded resignation of the JU proctor and proctorial body members. It announced a work abstention to press the

demands home.

At another news conference, the JUTA alleged Anwar had destroyed the image of the university by making irresponsible remarks on Tuesday's student protests.

JUTA president Professor Ajit Kumar Masumdar said Anwar branded the protesters as Islamic Chhatra Shibir members, although the JU campus was free of ICS activists.

At around 8:00pm on Tuesday, Malek, a master's student of Maulana Bhashani Hall, felt sick and was taken to the university medical centre for primary treatment.

The doctor on duty at the centre referred Malek to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar but he could not be taken there immediately as there was no ambulance, witnesses said.

An hour later, Malek was rushed to the EMCH, where

doctors declared him dead.

Following the death, angry students attacked the residences of the vice chancellor, treasurer, and some teachers.

A group of students also had kept the Dhaka-Aricha Road blocked for some time. But BCL leaders forced the demonstrators to remove barricade from the road.

Anwar was outside the campus during the rampage. He had gone to the Pabna Edward College to declare the institution free of Jamaat-Shibir.

He told New Age that he was on his way to the campus from Pabna at the time of the attacks made on his residence. 'My wife was home and she heard some people shouting "Naraye Takbir" before launching attack on my residence.'

The VC later alleged that ICS activists vandalised sev-

eral vehicles and his residence chanting 'Allahu Akbar'.

Meanwhile, an emergency syndicate meeting on Wednesday noon formed an eight-member committee led by JU pro-VC Professor Farhad Hossain to probe into Tuesday's chaotic and criminal events.

The meeting also decided to file a case against the students who had run amok on the campus and the highway following the death of the graduate student, Md Malek of the Maulana Bhasani Hall.

Anwar, who chaired the meeting, said the syndicate was committed to modernising the university medical centre and the JU authorities had already made a demand to the government for an allocation of Tk 10 crore to translate the commitment into reality.