

MOVEMENT FOR JU VC'S RESIGNATION

Education ministry urges withdrawal, threatens action

Agitating teachers declare fresh programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The education ministry yesterday urged Jahangirnagar University's (JU) agitating teachers to stop their ongoing movement, demanding Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain's resignation, and restore normalcy on the campus.

"The ministry hopes that the agitating teachers will stop all of their inconsiderable attitudes and activities that are going against students' interest, and will pay attention to their professional duties," stated a press release.

Otherwise, the government will take "appropriate action" to ensure an academic atmosphere, it stated, adding that Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid had expressed concern over the situation.

Meanwhile, ignoring the request, the teachers, at a press conference on the campus, announced to refrain from any academic and administrative activities, except the ongoing final examinations, from October 8 to 10, reports our JU correspondent.

A statement of 395 of the teachers read that the movement would continue until the VC resigned.

A section of teachers started demonstrating intermittently

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Education ministry urges

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 against the appointment of Prof Anwar after the VC panel election on July 20 last year.

Afterwards, "Shadharon Shikkhak Forum" began holding the demonstrations from April 27 accusing Prof Anwar of failing to expel a BCL leader for assaulting a teacher, committing irregularities in teachers' recruitment, and misusing university funds.

Around one and a half months ago, they confined the VC inside his office for four days. The VC was released after Nahid, on August 24, promised to form a committee to probe the allegations.

The committee provided its report, albeit four days after its scheduled submission on September 29.

From the next day till date, the teachers have kept Registrar Abu Bakar Siddique and Deputy Registrar Abu Hasan confined to their offices protesting appointments of three deans to the law, business administration, and biological science faculties.

The protesters said the VC could not recruit the three as an investigation was underway against him. The confinement was aimed at bar-

ring the registrar from signing the appointment letters.

They also initiated the ongoing sit-in before the VC's residence from October 1. The VC also initiated a counter sit-in right beside them hours later.

Yesterday's press release said the ministry has already started taking steps and "necessary" ones will be taken after reviewing the report but the movement has been resumed without holding discussions with the ministry.

"Such attitude from the teachers is inconsiderate and unacceptable. The ministry deeply observes the situation with concern. Such activities of a section of teachers have long been disrupting classes, exams, admission, administrative and other academic activities."