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Students observe strike

Varsity Correspondent

A general strike was observed by the different student organisations in the country's organisations including Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) and different left-political parties supported Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) called the strike in protest against the government's decision to enhance tuition fees at all levels and demanding formation of a special tribunal to try Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam as war criminal.

According to a circular of the Ministry of Finance, the monthly tuition fee has been raised for class VII and VIII to Taka 15, for class IX to X to Taka 15, higher secondary (HSC) level to Taka 20, degree level to Taka 25 and post-graduate level to Taka 30.

Classes of the most educational institutions of the city including Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were closed and the administrative activities were suspended during the strike hours.

The student organisations separately brought out processions and held rallies in the city in support of their strike programme.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) held a rally at the Arts Faculty premises which was addressed among others by BCL General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim, Joint-

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Students

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Secretary Ishak Ali Khan Panna, Organising Secretary Mahbubul Haq Shakil, Dhaka University unit President K.H.M. Lizu and city (north) General Secretary Akhtar Hossain.

Criticising the Government for increasing tuition fees, BCL leaders said that through increasing the tuition fees the Government had proved that it was not sincere to implement the ten-point demand of the students.

They blamed the Government for what they said giving shelter to the anti-liberation element Jamaat-Shibir.

BCL President Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury and General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim in a joint statement thanked the student community for observing strike.

The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya rally was addressed among others by Ruhul Kuddus Babu, Ragib Ahsan Munna and Rejekuzzaman Ratan.

The speakers at the rally demanded immediate withdrawal of the enhanced tuition fees.

They also congratulated the student community to make the strike a success.

GCO announced a 18-day action programme demanding withdrawal of enhanced tuition fees and formation of a special tribunal to try Golam Azam.

The action programme includes collection of signatures from July 25 to August 10, demonstration in front of the Ministry of Education and submission of memorandum to the heads of the country's different educational institutions on August 11, demonstration in front of the Ministry of Home on July 27 demanding trial of Golam Azam under special tribunal and march towards the office of the Prime Minister and demonstration in front of different district headquarters on August 17.

Chhatra Oikya Forum held a rally on the campus was addressed by Jayed Iqbal Khan and Nazrul Kabir in support of the strike.

Besides, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Belal Chowdhury and General Secretary Rejekuzzaman Ratan, Biplobi Chhatra Mancha Convener K.M. Bakirullah, Chhatra League (JSD-Mahbub) President Abul Kalam Azad Bablu and General Secretary Md. Shahidullah and Chhatra Oikya Forum President Moshrefa Mishu and General Secretary Mukhlesuddin Shahin in separate statements congratulated the students for observing strike in the educational institutions and demanded immediate withdrawal of enhanced tuition fees.