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Call for indefinite strike in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Feb. 6.—The local all-party Islamic University Transfer Resistance Committee (IUTRC) today declared an indefinite shutdown in the district as the government didn't fulfil its demand even after a 40-hour hartal, reports UNB.

Demonstrators still kept road communication over the district paralysed and damaged scores of vehicles on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway this afternoon, witnesses said.

Protest processionists, apparently outraged by Monday's government announcement of alternatives to the university, reportedly damaged at least 27 trucks, 12 auto-rickshaw four mishuk and fire microbus in between the university campus and the Tongi bridge.

They put up barricades at several points of the highway, including two big ones near the Tongi bridge, witnesses said.

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The militant procession was brought out after a rally on the university campus where the IUTRC leaders announced the fresh action programme following the two-day strike across the district that ended at 6 a.m. today.

Presided over by Mozammel Huq, Gazipur Paurashava Chairman and the district Awami League leader, the rally was addressed by local BNP leader Halimuzzaman Nohi, district Jamaat Ameer Abdul Hasem, Awami League leaders Ahsanullah and Shahjahan Alam Shazu.

Meanwhile IUTRC, the sponsor of the prolonged demonstration, split into two factions over Monday's government announcement of alternatives to the university.

"There could be no alternative to University," a faction of IUTRC chanted and marched in and around the university campus as well as on the highway, turning the government offer down.

The protesters this morning also put barricade on the highway, blocking transport between capital Dhaka and seven northern districts in the division.

The government announced in the Jatiya Sangsad Monday night that a modern hospital would be established at the site of the varsity here and the Bhawal Badre Alam Government College be turned into a University College.

Sources said a faction of IUTRC, having tilt towards the ruling Jatiya Party arranged a rally at Joydevpur crossing this afternoon welcoming the government announcement.

The dissident faction, believed to be comprising supporters of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, held a protest meeting on the University campus at the same time lashing out at the government decision.

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