

Thousands of students celebrated victory

Tens of thousands of students on Saturday turned the Dhaka University campus into a funfair during their grand celebration of the victory of democratic movement over the Ershad regime, reports UNB.

The euphoric students in colourful processions sang and danced, beating drums, horns and bugles, and splashed coloured water at each other throughout the day. Some others blasted crackers in joy.

The All-Party Student Unity (APSU), which spearheaded the movement two months ago, sponsored the celebration.

Students from city's different educational institutions also poured into the campus to share mirth with their university fellows. By 11 a.m. the areas around the Victory Stage in front of TSC became a sea of cheering students.

Thousands of students, many in funny outfit and carrying placards, gave the campus a carnival-like look with innumerable victory processionists waving "V" signs at each other.

They yelled slogans, songs and verses that booed and taunted toppled Ershad and his accomplices and scathingly criticised their misdeeds.

On the Victory Stage, the 12-hour marathon function began at about 11 a.m. which was inaugurated by Mahmuda Alam Kabita, the wife of slain Dr. Shamsul Alam Khan Milon. Dr. Milon's daughter Shama was also present.

The programmes including recitations, songs, drama, dances and short film show continued upto 10 p.m.

Apart from cultural activists of the campus, prominent artistes of mass media also took part.

Among others, DUCSU Vice-President Amanullah Aman, GS Khairul Kabir Khokon and other leaders of All-Party Student Unity attended the function.

One-minute silence was observed in memory of those killed in the democratic movement.

Khairul Kabir Khokon read out the 13-point charter of demand of APSU announced earlier.

Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina came to the campus in a brief visit to attend the celebrations in the afternoon. Dr. Kamal Hossain and other political leaders also visited.

Sandhani opened a blood donation camp at TSC premises.

Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) arranged a photo exhibition depicting phases of the anti-Ershad movement since 1983.

A large number of guardians, teachers, professionals, cultural artistes and politicians joined students

in the unprecedented colourful celebrations.

A number of truck processions of students also came out of the campus and paraded different streets, and some jubilant students sprayed colours on pedestrians.

BSS adds: DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon addressed the audience at 2 p.m. He gave a fresh list of associates of Ershad regime and demanded immediate of General Ershad and his accomplices.

The DUCSU GS also demanded ban on their exit from the country and the freezing of their bank accounts.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Muniruzzaman Mia, accompanied by senior teachers, visited the festival premises.

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Students

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in the evening and enjoyed the programme for some time.

Eight-Party Alliance leaders Sheikh Hasina, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Abdul Mannan, Tofael Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury; Seven-Party Alliance leader Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Five-Party Alliance leaders Nirmal Sen, Khalekuzzaman, Tipu Biswas and Abdullah Sarkar also visited the festival.

BUET bijoy utsab today

BSS adds: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) unit of All Party Students Unity (APSU) will hold a "Bijoy Utsab" (victory celebration) today (Sunday) marking the fall of Ershad regime.

The day-long programme begins at one minute after zero hour on Saturday night with a camp fire at the cafeteria premises of the university.

The victory procession will be brought out at 10 a.m. while a discussion and cultural function will take place at 4 p.m.