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DU students observe strike

Varsity Correspondent

A full-day strike was observed in Dhaka University on Thursday to protest the abusing a girl at Zahirul Haq Hall by some students.

The General Students Unit Council (GSUC) gave the strike call in support of its demand for punitive measures against those involved in abusing a girl who came to the campus to seek admission into M.A. preliminary class.

A girl whose identity could not be known was taken to Zahirul Haq Hall where she was abused by some students on May 2.

The total academic activities of the university came to a halt. University Central Library and administrative building were closed during the strike hours. Although presence of students on the campus was satisfactory. The classes were not held as students both male and female—expressed solidarity with the movement of GSUC.

Students of the university's three female residential halls came out from their dormitories with processions and gathered at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla. Leaders of GSUC tried to hold a rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla but failed due to the obstruction created by Rokeya

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DU strike

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Hall Students' Union V-P Shirin Sultana. Shirin Sultana, a leader of BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), while trying to address the gathering without prior permission of GSUC leaders general students raised protest and boycotted the rally blaming Shirin Sultana for her bid to politicise their ongoing movement. The female students left the foot of Aparajeo Bangla and went to V-C's residence in a procession.

V-C Prof. Emajuddin Ahamed came out of his residence office and addressed the processionist. In his brief speech, Prof. Emajuddin described the incident of Zahirul Haq Hall as regrettable and said that punitive measure would be taken against the culprits after submission of the enquiry committee report on the incident.

Portia Sultana and Khadija Bithi, two leaders of GSUC, in a joint statement on Thursday congratulated all including students, teachers and student organisations to make the strike programme a success.

They rejected the enquiry committee's report published partially in different newspapers terming it as eye-wash and reiterated their demand for expulsion of those responsible for abusing the girl from the university.

They also demanded cancellation of all discriminatory rules and regulations including prohibition order on the entry of female students in male residential halls.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) brought out a processions and held a rallies on the campus in support of the strike programme of GSUC.

The rally held at Arts Building gate was addressed, among others, by Chhatra League DU Unit President KHM Lizu and Joint Secretary Arshad Manjur Bipon.

They criticised the university authority for its failure to take measures against the students responsible for the incident and urged students to build movement against trouble makers.

They also demanded punishment to the culprits through proper investigation.

Meanwhile, President of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad Begum Sufia Kamal and General Secretary Ayesha Khanam in a joint statement on Thursday expressed resentment over the incident of Dhaka University Zahirul Haq Hall and demanded punishment of those involved in violating a girl.