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Repeal of Sunset Rule demanded

DU female students gherao VC's office

Varsity Correspondent

Female resident students of Dhaka University gheraoed the office of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed on Wednesday demanding cancellation of university's "Sunset Rule" under which the female students are obliged to return to their respective dormitories by sun set.

The female students also submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor requesting him to take necessary measures in repealing this "barbaric rule" curtailing their fundamental rights.

According to Dhaka University rule, female resident students must return to their respective dormitories immediately after sun set and if anyone wants to stay outside her dormitory after sun set she will have to take written prior permission from the provost of the hall.

About 300 female students of three residential halls—Rokeya, Shamsunnahar and Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitree Hall—assembled at the Madhu's Canteen at 11 a.m. and brought out a procession on the

campus. They held a rally in front of the DUCSU building which was addressed, among others, by Umme Habiba and Josna of Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitree Hall, Kahinor of Rokeya Hall and Bappi of Shamsunnahar Hall.

The speakers at the rally termed the "sunset rule" a system of mediaeval age and said that such system could not prevail in Dhaka University, the Oxford of the East. They said there is no such rule in other universities of the country and urged the Dhaka University authorities to cancel it. "Who gives security to female students when they move on the campus and outside the university area", the speakers posed the question to the authorities, adding that "we are mature enough and we are fully conscious about our dignity and prestige".

They said that the "sunset rule" was introduced in 1922, just a year after the inception of the university.

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considering the then social condition and opined that the 73-year old rule is not applicable in the present modern society.

After the rally, they went to the Vice-Chancellor's office in a procession and tried to enter the office premises but failed as the security guards put the gate under lock and key.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed appeared at the scene when Proctor failed to bring the female students under control. Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed assured the students of taking necessary measures to repeal the "sunset rule" in the near future.

At this stage students, pressured him to give instant announcement on the issue. Prof. Emajuddin expressed his inability to give such decision, saying it will take time to repeal the old rule. He left the spot when the situation apparently went out of control.

Later, a 12-member delegation went to the V-C's room and handed over the memorandum to him.

The female students will hold a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla at 10 a.m. today (Thursday) in support of the same demand.

Dhaka University has decided to observe Mourning Day on October 15 to commemorate the tragic accident at Jagannath Hall ten years ago in which several lives were lost, reports BSS.

A DU press release said, a meeting of the "15 October Memorial Committee" held on Thursday with Vice Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair finalised the detailed programme to observe the Mourning Day.

On October 15, 1985 quite a number of students, officials and employees of Jagannath Hall were killed when the roof of the hall's auditorium collapsed.

The programme of the day includes hoisting of black flags on the main buildings of the Dhaka University at 6 a.m. and wearing of black badges, flying the university flag at half-mast, laying of wreaths at the memorials for the dead, bringing out a mourning procession, holding of prayers at Jagannath Hall by Hindus, Buddhists and Christians, blood donation, memorial meeting at TSC and a cultural function.

Besides, special prayer and munajat will be offered at the mosques of the different halls and the University Central Mosque.