

CU teachers start 'alternative varsity'

Chittagong Office

CHITTAGONG, June 15.— Several hundred students today converged and attended the classes at private MES College that turned into "alternative Chittagong University" at the initiative of a section of desperate teachers spearheading anti-fundamentalist movement.

The alternative university which is first of its type in Bangladesh opened by these teachers to protest against the failure of the Government to get what it called flushing out of Shibir activists from Chittagong University campus.

Around 40 teachers out of the total 350 university teachers turned up at the college premise to take the classes split into two shift morning shift and afternoon shift.

In the morning shift on the first day, there were five classes for honours and post graduate final year students each taking around 40 minute duration. Later, the students came out of their classes and took out a procession from Mes College which is the stronghold of pro-Al Chhatra League supporters. The processionists raising anti-Shibir and

anti-administration slogans walked all the way to Range Deputy Inspector General Office at Nasirabad where they presented a memorandum before being dispersed.

Among the prominent university teachers present at the MES College were former Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ali Emdad Khan, Prof. Fazle Hossain of Mathematics Department, Prof. Anupam Sen of Sociology Department, Prof. Zia Haidar of Fine Arts Department, Prof. Abdul

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Mannan of Management Department and Prof. Abul Kashem Chowdhury of Sociology Department.

Meanwhile the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) through a press release on Friday night declared postponement of half-day hartal in greater Chittagong on Sunday following an assurance from the administration for resolving the crisis in Chittagong University. But the reaction of Chittagong University Central Students Union CUCSU and Islami Chhatra Sena which also joined the hartal call could not be known till the writing of this report.

The Islamic Chhatra Shibir withdraw their call for strike in all the educational institutions in Chittagong on Sunday.

However, APSU continued to lay blockade at the University's main entry point at Madanhat. But the Shibir waived the strike in Chittagong University for the past three days. Telephone and gas line connection have been cut off the campus from Madanhat Point.

There are also mixed reaction from different political and socio-cultural bodies to the holding of classes outside the campus at MES College.

The Chittagong University Democratic Teachers Forum criticised the holding of classes in a private college outside the campus. The statement of Forum signed by Dr. Aftab Ahmad of Political Science Department said that the imparting of education through this means is nothing but a "political stunt in the interest of vested group" at the cost of image of teachers. This may further complicate the prevailing situation in Chittagong University, the statement added.