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Peace parade at DU campus

DHAKA, April 7 (UNB) : Thousands of teachers, students and employees of Dhaka University today staged a peace parade in the campus to celebrate the university's reopening after 40 days of violence-prompted closure.

The main theme of the silent march, led by Vice-Chancellor Prof. M Moniruzzaman Miah, was to battle terrorism on the campus.

The university was shut down for an indefinite period on February 25 after a gunbattle among rival student groups left a student leader, Shahidul Islam Chunnu, dead.

The authorities decided to reopen the university cancelling scheduled Ramzan vacation to make up for the loss of academic days.

However, the university had had a change of the Vice-Chancellor during the closure when Prof. Abdul Mannan resigned.

Prof Miah, who succeeded Prof Mannan, has sought co-operation from all to end violence in the campus.

Today's peace procession began from the foot of Aparajeya Monument and paraded through the campus.

Pro-VC Dr Emajuddin Ahmed, Proctor Prof Aminul Islam, hall provosts, senior teachers, leaders of DUCSU and the 22-party Student Combine were among about 5,000 teachers, students and employees who participated in the march.

Classes were held briefly and no untoward incident occurred.

A good number of students attended the classes, which remained suspended for the procession.

Most resident students already returned to their respective halls, which opened on Thursday.

Talking to UNB, the Vice-Chancellor said the university is afflicted with multiple problems which could never be solved by closing the campus.

He called for building public opinion against terrorism on the campus and added that people from all walks of life must be involved to maintain academic atmosphere.

Prof Miah praised the statement of the leaders of the 22 Student Organisations pledging co-operation for restoration of normal atmosphere and end of violence.

"I have enough confidence in the student leaders that they will play vital role to make the peace move a success," he said.

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day.

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