

All exams held despite JCD strike: DU

By DU Correspondent

All the scheduled examinations and classes in some departments were held at the Dhaka University yesterday despite a day-long strike called by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of main opposition BNP, according to a DU press release.

The JCD enforced the strike on the campus to protest 'attack' on its procession towards the Prime Minister's office on April 25 and press home its 12-point demand.

The strike was part of its three-day scheduled programme to observe strike in the educational institutions across the country.

However, the administrative work was normal and the scheduled meeting of academic council and election committee were also held during the strike.

The university buses, which carry the non-resident students into the campus from different parts of the city, could not ply as the JCD activists locked up its main gate early in the morning. Only a few minibuses went out of the campus to pick up the officials.

The JCD brought out a procession on the campus in the morning and held a rally at the main gate of Arts Building at noon.

At the rally, the JCD leaders said that the students throughout the country observed the strike spontaneously.

They also threatened to launch a tougher agitation if their demands were not met immediately.

The demand include withdrawal of 'false cases' filed against the JCD leaders and activists, reduction of bus fare by 50 per cent for the students, removal of terrorists from the residential halls of the Dhaka University, reduction of prices of educational materials and arrest of those involved in the rape incident at the Jahangirnagar University.

Presided over by Manir Hossain, the rally was addressed, among others, by Monjur Elahi, Monwar Hossain Rana, ABM Mosharaf Hossain, Rafiq Sikder, Muzaffar Hossain Zakir, Helen Zerin Khan, Mostafizul Islam Mamun, Abdul Bari Dani and Farhad Hossain Azad.

Later, the JCD staged a sit-in in front of the Vice Chancellor's office for half an hour in the afternoon to press home their demand.

Besides, pro-government Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out separate procession and held a rally at the Bat-tala on the campus protesting the strike.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepary, the rally was addressed, among others, by Liakat Ali Sikder, Rafiqul Islam, Sajjad Hossain and Sujit Roy Nondi.