

দৈনিক ইকবান

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Undeclared curfew in DU

Protesters chased out

Varsity Correspondent

On the besieged Dhaka University campus, cadres of ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) chased out the student protesters who gathered at Shahbagh area on Tuesday. The cadres moved in around the tense campus flexing their

muscle all the day to quell any demonstrations.

Huge contingent of police, riot police and paramilitary BDR sealed the entire university area to restrict the entry of any "outsider" to the campus.

An undeclared curfew was im-

posed on the campus area. No procession was allowed. Police dispersed any gathering of five to six people.

On the uneasy campus, Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) brought out a silent pro-

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Protesters

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cession wrapping black ribbons around their mouths in protest against Monday's police attack on journalists. Journalists of different national dailies and electronic media also joined the procession.

Gathering one after another at Shahbagh area in the morning, the students tried to enter the campus showing their identity cards. But police barred them saying their entrance would create anarchy on the campus.

Facing the police barricade, the students staged a sit-in demonstration there with cartoons depicting the role of the Vice Chancellor. They chanted heated slogans demanding immediate stepping down of the Vice Chancellor and Proctor.

At about 12:00 a group of JCD cadres of Zia Hall unit repeatedly asked them to leave the spot. At one stage they drove them out from the spot with the help of law enforcers.

Yet, hundreds of students sneaked into the campus, gathered at the Central Shaheed Minar and continued their protest where a group of students under the banner of "Students Against Repression" now observing fast-unto-death there since Monday to realise their 7-point demands.

Conditions of the fasting students deteriorated after 24 hours. About 20 fasting students fell sick and four of them were given intravenous saline.

One Nadira was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors suggested Sohul Parvej of Women's Studies, Iva Biswas of International Relations, Parimal Kumar Sarkar of Applied Statistics and Himu of Anthropology to be hospitalised. But they were staying at the Shaheed Minar.

The students continued their protest against the pre-dawn police assault on female students and the barbaric action against the protesters on the following days.

They staged drama, sang songs recited satiric poems at the Central Shaheed Minar. A huge banner was hung at the minar with caricature of the Vice Chancellor and a slogan - hands off the forces, free the campus.

The agitating students held mock trial titled "Unmu Shunani O Mukta Bichar" (or hearing and open trial) of the VC that sentenced him 100 years rigorous imprisonment.

The students urged all Dhaka University students staying anywhere in the country to wear black badges today (Wednesday).

The newly appointed Pro-VC Prof AFM Yousuf Haider and the acting president of DUTA Prof Abul Khair faced angry protests from the students when they went to the Central Shaheed Minar at about 11:45 am. The student chanted slogans against them.

At about 1:00 pm some 50-60 JCD cadres marched towards the Shaheed Minar that triggered sudden tension among the protesters. They formed a human barricade around the Shaheed Minar to resist any attack.

Seeing some activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) here, the JCD cadres threatened them and went back without creating any disturbance.

Different socio-cultural, student and professional organisations and individuals expressed their solidarity with the movement of the students on the second day of their fast-unto-death at the Central