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Repeal of sunset rule

Strike in DU today

Varsity Correspondent

A full-day strike will be observed in Dhaka University by female resident students today (Sunday) in support of their four-point demands including repeal of "sunset rule" and other proctorial regulations depriving them of various educational and cultural facilities.

Female resident students of Dhaka University have been waging movement for cancellation of sunset rule, removal of application system at the time of going out of the hall compound, allowing female students to go outside by signing registrar book kept at the hall gate and keeping the hall gates open till closing hour of the University Central Library.

According to university proctorial rules, female students have to return to their respective dormitories before sun set and if any female resident wants to stay outside the hall she will have to take prior written permission from the hall authorities. Female students are not allowed to meet with their relatives including father, mother and brother after visiting hours and even they could not avail library facilities at the Central Library after sun set though it remains open till 9 pm during every working day.

Female resident students brought out a procession and held a rally at Aparajeo Bangla on Saturday in support of their today's (Sunday) strike programme.

Leaders of different student organisations addressed the rally expressing solidarity with the strike programme and urged the University authorities to take immediate mea-

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asures to repeal those rules.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Iftekhar Mohammad Bahadur of pro-Awami League backed Chhatra League (S-P), Monir Hossain of ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Aslamuddin of Chhatra Union, Saifur Rahman Tapan of Chhatra Front, Monirul Islam of Chhatra Moitree, Jonaid Saki of Chhatra Federation and Moshrefa Mishu of Chhatra Oikya Forum. Shahana Sumi and Fazilatunnesa Bappi of Shamsunnahar Hall, Kohinoor and Shapla of Rokeya Hall and Umme Habiba Sumi of Bangladesh-Kuwait Moitree Hall also addressed the rally.

Female resident students will hold silent procession wearing black mask on the campus after Eid. They will launch signature campaign programme in support of their on-going movement immediately.

Meanwhile, more organisations expressed solidarity with the movement of female resident students and appealed to the University authorities to consider their demands.

Women Forum president

President of Bangladesh Women Forum and former VP of Dhaka University Shamsunnahar Hall Students' Union Ferdousi Sultana in a statement on Saturday announced her total support to the ongoing movement of female students and said the "so-called" sunset rule is curtailing the fundamental rights of female students. This rule is contradictory to Bangladesh constitution, said Mrs. Ferdousi Sultana and demanded immediate cancellation of this rule to ensure the female students' rights.

Chairman of Life, an anti-drug organisation Kamrul Islam Sony, Convener and Joint Convener of Bangladesh Law Students' Association, Selim Mahmud and Hafizur Rahman Curzon and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation in separate statements expressed their total support to the female students' movement and urged the University authorities to accept their demands.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of central and Dhaka University unit leaders of different student organisations was held on Saturday with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed in the chair.

Student leaders had a free and open discussions with Vice Chancellor on prevailing campus situation specially the ongoing movement for reformation of some rules in the female residential halls and observance of Shaheed Day on February 21, says a University press release.

Proctor and Assistant Proctors of the University were present in the meeting.

Student leaders expressed their support with the demands of female students in the meeting and requested the University authorities to consider those demands taking into account the fundamental rights and democratic spirit.

They said the prevailing rules in female residential halls are undemocratic and also against their fundamental rights. The movement for changing those rules are timely, they opined.

The student leaders pledged their full cooperation and effective role for observing the Shaheed Day with due respect and solemnity.