

Plea to set up complaint cell DU teachers, students hold solidarity meet

Varsity Correspondent

A number of university teachers, different left-leaning student organisations and some socio-cultural organisations expressed solidarity with the students of Dhaka University demonstrating against "sexual harassment" on Tuesday.

The solidarity meeting organised by the demonstrating students was held in front of the central library of the university under a strong police protection.

Girl students gathered at the meeting venue with processions from Rokeya Hall and Shamsunnahar Hall in the morning.

A small group of students from Jahangirnagar University joined the meeting to express solidarity with them.

The meeting was scheduled to be held in front of the Arts Building, but it was later shifted to the library premises to avoid any confrontation as other student organisations were holding rally there at the same time.

Some of the university teachers attended the solidarity meeting to express their support to the students

protesting against the sex-scandal while others expressed solidarity by sending written statements.

The teachers who expressed solidarity were Muzaffar Ahmed of the Institute of Business Administration, Anu Muhammad of Economics Department of Jahangirnagar University, Golam Hossain of Economics Department (DU), H.K. Arefin of Anthropology (DU), Mesbah Kamal of History (DU), Mofazzalul Haq of Public Administration (DU), Robayat Ferdous of Mass Communication and Journalism (DU), M.M. Akash of Economics (DU), Abdul Hasib Chowdhury from Electrical and Electronic Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and A.N. Rasheda of Notre Dame College.

Noted writer and intellectual Ahmed Safa was also present at the meeting to express solidarity.

A number of socio-cultural organisations including Nari Pragati, Shammilita Nari Samaj, Shangjukta Sramik Federation, Bahumukhi

Hawkers' Association, Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, Hill Women's Federation and Pahari Chhatra Parishad also expressed solidarity.

Speakers at the meeting including teachers, students and leaders of the socio-cultural organisations supported the six-point demand of the demonstrating students. They demanded setting up of a "complaint cell" at the university.

The representatives of the students said that they were not complaining against all teachers. Their complaints, rather, are against a handful of teachers.

A large number of uniformed and plainclothed policemen were deployed on the campus on Tuesday to tackle any untoward incident. Clashes took place on the previous two days made the authorities alert. No untoward incident occurred on the campus though tension prevailed earlier in the morning.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) separately held

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DU teachers

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rallies at the Aparajeyo Bangla and DUCSU premises respectively.

BCL procession, after parading the campus, gathered at the Aparajeyo Bangla and held the rally protesting the sexual harassment of a student by a teacher.

The rally, presided over by BCL DU unit President Sajjad Hossain, was addressed by Beg Shahin, Delwar Hossain, A.K.M. Azim and others.

The leaders said, BCL will stand strongly against any kind of effort which may ruin the image of the university.

They demanded exemplary punishment to those who attacked the procession of the students protesting sexual harassment. They also demanded immediate submission of report by the probe body formed to investigate into the sex-scandal.

VC blamed

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders at a rally, blamed the VC for the attacks made on the students protesting sexual harassment by saying that VC himself is manoeuvring all these.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Manjur-e-Elahi, Mosharraf Hossain, Monir Hossain and Monwar Hossain.

Left-leaning Shamajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF), Chhatra Union (BCU) and Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) brought out separate procession and held rally in demand of proper investigation of the sex-scandal.

GCO warned of the authorities of launching strong movement if the report of the probe body lead to any unfair judgement.