

DU observes 'Black Day'

DU Correspondent

TEACHERS and students of Dhaka University on Sunday observed "Black Day", marking the countrywide brutal attacks on students on August 20 through 23 in 2007, during the military-backed caretaker government.

With a demand to punish the attackers, DU students and teachers wore black badges and held different programmes, including a discussion and formation of a human chain, on the campus.

The discussion was held at Teachers Students Centre auditorium around 11:30 am. The vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, AAMS Arefin Siddique addressed the discussion as the chief guest.

He said the forces who had assassinated the founding president of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members in 1975, as well as killed the four leaders of the nation, tried again to undermine the country's largest democratic institution in 2007, but failed as truth always wins.

He condemned what he said the heinous attacks on the university students and teachers and demanded punishment for those responsible.

The discussion was addressed among others, by DU treasurer Mohammad Kamal Uddin, president of DU teachers association, Fariduddin Ahmed and former VC of Jahangirnagar University, Anwar Hossain. Some students and employees also spoke.

Meanwhile, Progressive Student Alliance, a platform of left leaning student organisations, also brought out a procession on the campus to mark the day.

On August 20, 2007, some army personnel beat three DU students and insulted a teacher on the DU gymnasium playground during a football match. The incident sparked clashes between police and students, spreading from DU to all other educational institutions in the country.

The campus unrest then led to the arrest of several DU teachers and students, on charges of breaking the Emergency Power Rule.