

Cancellation of quota system

DU students threaten to go for indefinite strike from Feb 25

DU Correspondent

Agitating students of Dhaka University (DU) on Thursday extended their ultimatum to the government up to February 24 and announced a fresh agitation programme demanding the cancellation of the quota system in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations ahead of 28th BCS. The previous ultimatum expired on Thursday.

They vowed that the indefinite students' strike would be enforced

in all the public universities as well as all university colleges across the country from February 25 if the demands were not met by the new deadline.

Thousands of students of DU under the banner "General Students' Parishad" burst into protests on the DU campus and demanded the withdrawal of the quota system. They brought out a procession on the campus chanting various slogans against the

quota system.

In a demonstration at the foot of Aparajeya Bangla, they declared a series of agitation programmes to bring home their demands. The programmes included making 'human chain' on February 17, visiting Central Shaheed Minar bare-footed wearing black badges on February 21 and holding greater students' demonstration on the DU campus on February 24. (See Page 15 Col. 7)

DU students

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They carried different placards imprinting "Say no to quota." "Save country from the course of quota", "Abolish quota save merit", reads another placards. "Want quota-free BCS", "Cancel quota save merit", "Save nation from 55% quota" and "Why our merit hostages in quota system?" reads different placards.

"The 55 percent quota is a gross negligence towards majority of the candidates," they said adding that the meritorious persons have been deprived of their fundamental rights through ongoing quota system.

They urged the government to withdraw the quota system to ensure appointments in the civil service on the basis of merit in the greater interest of the nation.

In the BCS exams, 55 per cent appointments are made under quota system and the rest 45 per cent on merit basis. The four quotas including freedom fighters quota (30 percent), women quota (10 percent), district quota (10 percent) and indigenous quota (5 percent).

In 28th BCS, a total of 1720 vacant posts of 27 different cadres (14 general cadres and 13 technical and professional cadres) including administration, foreign and police.

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