

24/4/02

BCL, JCD observe 'black day' on DU campus separately

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Political foes of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) both observed April 23 on the Dhaka University campus as a black day but from their respective platforms.

Opposition Awami League-backed BCL marked it as the day of killing of its leader Partha Protim Achariya while ruling BNP-backed JCD called it "Jasimuddin Hall Black Day" for torture on general students by police.

Of the day in 1998, Partha, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department, was killed in a bloody clash between the cadres of the two rival student organisations. The gunbattle saw ouster of all JCD leaders and workers from five northern halls of the university by the then ruling party-backed student front.

Police too made an assault on Jasimuddin Hall, arrested 60 JCD-men and put off their clothes at the Police Control room, a photograph that was carried out by national dailies.

JCD's DU unit held a rally and demanded official announcement of the day as Jasimuddin Hall Black Day. The speakers blamed the then VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury for patronising the BCL-men to launch the attack.

The JCD leaders termed the killing of Partha as a result of same-side attack and said a reinvestigation into the killing would definitely unearth the clues and motives behind. An earlier investigation held the JCD leaders and workers responsible for the killing.

The BCL leaders and workers brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus demanding punishment to the killers of Partha. They alleged that the killers were now freely moving before the eyes of police after the BNP-led four-party alliance formed the government.

Earlier, the BCL leaders placed a wreath at the Partha Monument near Surva Sen Hall.