

Call to withdraw Aug 23 cases

DU teachers, students observe 'Black Day'

DU Correspondent

Teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) on Saturday demanded immediate withdrawal of all cases including case no. 51 (8) filed against them in connection with the August last year incident, the trial of which are still pending in the High Court (HC).

In observance of the 'black day' of August 23, they held solidarity demonstration with teachers and students of the university at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla. Earlier, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) at an emergency meeting on Wednesday last

had announced the Aug 23 as 'black day'. "We are observing the day as a 'Black Day' as a mark of protest", said DUTA President Prof. Sadrul Amin.

In the solidarity demonstration, Social science dean Prof. Harun-ur-Rashid said that history would judge the government's actions in last August 23. "We don't want any further conflict, adding we only want a cordial academic atmosphere, he said.

Prof Harun, one of those arrested last year, alleged that students were still being harassed due to cases

against them, and asked the government to cease the harassment.

Former president of DUTA Prof. AKMS Arefin Siddiqui said the students of DU have sacrificed their lives in the past for the sake of fundamental rights and democracy. He urged the government to withdraw the cases so that their future is not destroyed," he said.

He asked the government to make arrangements for better medical treatment for those students still being detained.

Bangladesh Chhatra League
(See Page 11 Col. 3)

DU teachers

(From Page 1 Col. 8)

(BCL) president, Mahmud Hassan Ripon said that the actions of the government last year was unexpected. He urged the government to withdraw all pending cases against the students and teachers.

Two DU teachers Prof. Md Anwar Hossain and Prof. Harun-ur-Rashid were arrested on Aug 23, 2007, following violent clashes that erupted over the demand for withdrawal of an army camp from the campus. Later, Prof. Sadrul Amin and Prof. Nimchandra Bhowmik and 11 students were arrested.

DUTA general secretary professor Anwar Hossain said in line with a decision made in the last Senate meeting to observe the day as a 'Black Day', an emergency meeting convened on August 20 under professor Sadrul Amin's stewardship worked out the details of the programme.

Seven of those students, now released from jail, also held a solidarity rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla in the midday. A case was filed against them, with Shahbagh Police Station on charge of setting fire to an Army jeep in front of Aziz Co-operative market during the student violence.