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DU class boycott continues

Unconditional release of detained teachers, students demanded

DU correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student front of Awami League (AL) on Thursday demanded immediate unconditional release of the detained teachers and students of Dhaka University (DU) and withdrawal of all cases filed against them in connection with the August 20-22 DU incidents.

In a statement, Sazzad Sakib Badsha, BCL DU unit General Secretary, also demanded exclusion of names of the students including its President Sohel Rana Tipu from chargesheets submitted on ransacking and setting fire to an Army vehicle in front of Shahbagh intersection during student violence on August 21 last year.

The leaders and activists of BCL also met with DU Vice-chancellor

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at his office. They requested the VC to urge the President Prof. Dr. Iajuddin Ahmed to take immediate steps about the release of detained teachers and students of the university.

Meanwhile, the students of Dhaka University under the twin banners 'student against repression' and 'Chhatra Bandhu' on Thursday boycotted classes for one hour and formed a fresh human chain on the DU campus demanding immediate release of detained teachers and students. They wore white and red cloths around their heads protesting the arrests of the teachers and students.

As many as 1000 agitating students formed the human chain in front of Aparajeya Bangla on the DU campus from 11am to 12.15pm. The long queue of the students ended at Central Shahid Minar. They carried different placard imprinting "Lifting the undemocratic state of emergency." "Stop harassment on teachers and students. Please release our teachers without any excuse to ensure democratic educational atmosphere."

"Who is the future of nation, try war criminals, not students, different placards carried the writings.

They said boycott of classes and exams will continue if the detainees were not freed by Saturday.

The DU Vice-chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz said that "All of us want the teachers and students get released." But it isn't wise for the students to boycott classes and exams, he said.

"I hope the government will resolve the matter shortly," he further said.