

# Protests, counter-protests escalate over ordinance

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Students of 7 colleges block road, disrupt traffic



Students and teachers from the seven affiliated colleges yesterday staged separate demonstrations over the proposed Dhaka Central University ordinance.

A group of students initially blocked the Science Lab intersection from 1:00pm to 1:45pm and later moved to the New Market-Azimpur intersection, where they blocked the road and formed a human chain from 2:00pm to 4:00pm, demanding the immediate issuance of the ordinance.

"Due to the blockade, vehicular movement remained slow for hours and eventually came to a complete standstill for nearly two hours until the students left the road. The situation returned to normal around 5:00pm," said Twaha Yeasin Hossen, assistant commissioner (Traffic) in the New Market area.

Meanwhile, a group of students from Eden Mohila College blocked the Nilkhet intersection from 11:45am to 1:30pm, opposing the proposal, before marching toward Dhaka College, where they staged a sit-in in front of the principal's office until police dispersed them around 4:45pm.

"If this ordinance is issued, Eden and Badrunnessa will cease to exist and remain merely as faculties. We want a separate women's university comprising Eden and Badrunnessa," said a student of Eden College.

Separately, teachers from both Dhaka College and Eden College formed human chains in front of their respective campuses, demanding the cancellation of the draft ordinance.

Mahfuzul Haque, officer-in-charge of New Market Police Station, said the two student groups held their respective programmes without any unpleasant incidents and left the road around 5:00pm. The situation is now normal, he added.

On September 24, the interim government published the draft ordinance for the proposed Dhaka Central University, comprising the seven colleges previously affiliated with Dhaka University.