

## Students demand reopening of Varsity

Varsity Correspondent

Twenty-two students organisations observed 'students-workers solidarity day' on Thursday to commemorate the third death anniversary of Shahjan Siraj, a student leader of the Rajshahi University who was killed in police firing on December 22 when he was in a procession in support of SKOP's 48-hour strike call.

A students rally was held on the day at the Central Shaheed Minar with Mr. Mostaq Ahmed in the chair. It was addressed, among others, by Mr. Faiz Ahmed, President of Sanmilita Sankskritik Jote, Mr. Manzurul Ahsan Khan, a trade union leader, Mr. Nurul Anwar and by the student leaders.

In a resolution, the rally demanded immediate reopening of Dhaka University and other educational institutions. Criticising the closure, it said that the present Government was following the then Pakistani Junta. By closing the universities, the Government was throwing the students into an uncertainty, it added. The resolution said that the Government has violated the Varsity autonomy awarded by the 1973 Ordinance. It further said that the state of emergency could not overlap the university autonomy. The rally demanded immediate release of student and political detenus.

The students rally criticised the version of U.S. Embassy in Bangladesh and termed that it was a direct interference in the internal affairs of Bangladesh. The rally also resented the Government decision of leasing the Haripur gas field to a foreign company.

The rally also demanded repeal of the Special Powers Act and the Press and Publication Act.

The students rally demanded more allocation in the education sector. It announced that on December 29 rallies and processions will be brought out in the educational institutions of the country in pursuance of their demands. A students mass rally will be held at the Battala of Dhaka University on the day.