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Protest against alleged sexual abuse at DU mounting

By DU Correspondent

Different organisations and professionals including teachers of universities have expressed solidarity with the students agitating against alleged sexual abuse of female students by teachers at Dhaka University.

They expressed solidarity with them at a rally on the campus organised by the Students Protesting Sexual Harassment (SPSH).

The student organisations including Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikhya (GCO), Bangladesh Chhatra Federation (BCF), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) condemned the attacks on the agitating students and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), which were silent on the issue so far, brought out separate processions and held rallies on the

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campus yesterday to protest the attacks on students.

The SPSH members came under attack from their rival group "Conscious Students" on Sunday and Monday. The rival group that claims they stand for saving the image of DU teachers did not observe any programme yesterday.

The JCD leaders, at a rally in front of the DUCSU building, held the Vice-chancellor responsible for the untoward incidents on the campus over the last few days and asked him to resign.

"The unrest was created by the Awami League-backed BCL and so the AL-backed VC should step down taking all the responsibility," JCD president for the DU unit Monir Hossain said.

The SPSH held the 'solidarity rally' on the Central Library premises under police protection. Earlier, it brought out a procession from Rokeya Hall.

A section of students of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) joined the rally to express solidarity with the SPSH.

The organisations that expressed solidarity are Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Jatiya Chhatra Dal, Chhatra Oikhya Forum, Biplobi Chhatra Moitry, Nari Pragati, Tattya Parjalochana O Samanay Kendra, Suchana Adhayan Chakra, Bibartan Sangskriti, Bitarka Patrika Goshti, Samaj Chetana and Sammilita Nari Samaj.

A number of DU teachers also expressed solidarity with the SPSH and addressed the rally. They include Prof Mozaffar Ahmed of IBA, HK Arefin of Anthropology, Golam Hossain and MM Akash of Economics, Mofazzelul Haq of Public Administration, Mesbah Kamal of History and Rubaiat Ferdous of Mass Communication and Journalism.

The rally was addressed by

eminent writer Ahmed Sofa, lawyer Rawsan Jahan Parveen, nutritionist Dilwara Akhtar Jahan, JU teacher Anu Muhammad, BUET teacher Abdul Hasib Chowdhury, Notre Dame College teacher A.N. Rasheda, general secretary of Sangjukta Sramik Federation Shariat Ullah, president of Bahumukhi Hacker Samity Bacchu, Mirza Taslima of 'March 8 Parshad', president of Hill Woman's Federation Kabita Chakma, president of Pahari Chhatra Parishad Dipayang Khisa, Faizul Hakim Lala of Anti-Fascism Democratic Committee and Manash Chowdhury of 'Asuchi'.

The speakers at the rally also expressed solidarity with the six-point demand of the SPSH. They urged the people of the country, especially students to launch a concerted movement against all forms of sexual harassment.

The SPSH would announce further programmes at a press conference tomorrow.