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JCD strike in DU passes off peacefully

Varsity Correspondent

The first day of the indefinite strike on the Dhaka University campus called by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) passed off on Sunday without any untoward incident.

No classes or examinations were held and most of the offices remained closed.

The JCD activists put the entrances of the academic buildings including the Central Library under lock and key early in the morning.

Both the BNP-backed JCD and Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out processions and held rallies in support and against the strike.

The authorities decided to call on the Chancellor and President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Chief Advisor Justice Latifur Rahman to apprise them of the campus situation.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the members of University Senate, Syndicate, Teachers' Association, Deans, Provost Standing committee, chairmen of the departments and directors with VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

Responding to the allegations of some student bodies, the meeting decided to reinstate the ousted students. The members of Senate

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JCD strike

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Syndicate, PSC and other concerned officials will check each and every room and allow the genuine students to return to the dormitories.

The authorities urged the student organisations to withdraw the strike and come to the negotiation table to maintain the academic atmosphere.

After a long interval of four months JCD President Nasiruddin Pintu came to the campus to conduct programme.

The JCD leaders at their rally vowed to continue the strike and stuck to their demand for the Vice Chancellor's resignation. The JCD president warned BCL supporters again any attempt of counter to the strike programme.

Talking to this correspondent JCD General Secretary Shahabuddin Laltu said they had reached a point of no return. "We've to continue the strike till our demands are met," he said.

The BCL leaders at their rally said the non-students were trying to foil the congenial atmosphere of the campuses across the country. They blamed Begum Khaleda Zia for destabilising the country through the JCD activists.

Under the banner of "General Students" BCL leaders brought out a procession. They bore placards that read "Khaleda Zia doesn't want education".

On the eve of the strike five BCL activists were injured in a clash at Salimullah Hall early Sunday. The clash arose from an altercation over control of a room of the dormitory between two BCL leaders.

Campus sources said five to seven rounds of gunshots were fired at Shahidullah Hall on Sunday evening. No casualty was reported.