

## JnU students boycott class, exam demanding halls

### JnU Correspondent

THE Jagannath University students boycotted classes and examinations on Tuesday, the first day of their two-day strike demanding construction of residential halls.

The university students are on movement pressing for construction of dormitories for them on the land of Dhaka Central Jail, which has been recently shifted from the old part of the city to Keraniganj on its outskirts.

Raisul Islam Nayan, a student of marketing department, on Monday declared the fresh agitation on behalf of the agitators on the campus after a march towards Prime Minister's Office.

Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, Lalbagh division deputy commissioner of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told New Age that the agitators staged demonstrations peacefully in the Ray Shaheb Bazaar intersection of old Dhaka from 9:30am to 1:00pm.

Although the students blocked the roads, they did not vandalise any vehicle, he said.

Hundreds of students brought out a procession from the campus around 9:15am and held a rally at Ray Shaheb Bazaar intersection after being halted by the law enforcers' barricades.

The agitators continued their demonstration until 1:00pm, forcing traffic in the area to come to a standstill.

They also set fires to tyres on the road and chanted slogans in favour of their demands.

Earlier, the agitators padlocked most of its academic and administrative buildings on the campus by 8:00am halting all academic and administrative activities.

Commuters faced severe difficulties as they experienced heavy traffic congestions on different streets linking Sadarghat, the prime waterway terminal, and Gulistan, a major trade and transportation hub in the city, for around three hours and a half.

The agitating students said they had been living at rented houses as the authorities failed to provide them with accommodation since the establishment of the university.

'We will continue our movement until our rational demands are met,' said accounting and information system department student

Shofiqul Islam, an organiser of the movement.

Khairun Nesa, another organiser of the movement, said, 'We need halls, because we face various problems at rented house.'

JnU proctor Noor Muhammad said that the authorities unlocked the gates of academic and administrative building to resume their regular activities.

The agitating students also urged the students of all public and private universities to express their solidarity with their logical movement.

Meanwhile, the university on August 11 wrote a letter to the government seeking permanent ownership of the former jail property.

The students have been demonstrating since August 1 in support of their demands.