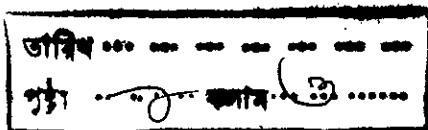


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DU classes resume today as JCD withdraws strike

Varsity Correspondent

In a dramatic development, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Sunday called off its nonstop strike at Dhaka University, paving the way for immediate resumption of academic activities in the country's premier university.

The BNP-backed student organisation withdrew the strike after a "fruitful" meeting with the liaison committee formed by the university Syndicate. Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League was the other party to the meeting.

With the stalemate on the campus now over, classes will resume today (Monday). Examinations of different departments and institutes will be held from August 16 as per previous schedules.

To make over the losses already suffered due to the strike, the university authorities will hold examinations on the weekly holidays (Fridays) in three shifts, according to a decision taken in the meeting on Sunday.

Examinations of 145 papers were postponed as a result of the strike enforced between July 29 and August 12. The number of affected examinees is 10,551.

Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury heaved a sigh of relief at the resolution of the 15-day crisis at the university.

"I'm happy, but not so happy because at least six months were stolen from the life of my students," he said adding that "none won, none lost with the strike but the university suffered a lot." See Page 15 Col 8

DU classes

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After the *Paribesh Parishads* meeting ended in fiasco on Saturday, the university authorities called a meeting with JCD and BCL on Sunday. It was mediated by the liaison committee.

Briefing the university correspondents about the outcome of Sunday's meeting, JCD leaders said that the university authorities had assured them of meeting all the demands by next seven days.

"In response to the authorities' appeal, we have withdrawn the strike for the time being," said JCD president Nasiruddin Pintu. He warned that if the demands were not met, they would again go for the strike.

The DU authorities rehabilitated some 85 JCD activists to four dormitories adjacent to the Arts Building. The JCD activists were 'ousted' on June 16 night as a backlash to the Narayanganj bomb blast.

The JCD leaders were pressing the authorities for rehabilitating all their supporters to the BCL-dominated halls as the lone condition to call off the strike.

The DU authorities, however, agreed to rehabilitate the JCD workers to two more halls - Sir AF Rahman Hall and Dr Mohammad Shahidullah Hall - today (Monday).

BCL leaders later told another press briefing that they just wanted an end to the sufferings of the students and for that they attended Sunday's meeting.

"We're happy at JCD's decision to withdraw the illogical strike that caused sufferings to the students," BCL president Bahadur Bepari said.

About rehabilitation process of the ousted JCD activists, the BCL President said they would not tolerate any Jamaat-supported Shibir activist in the name of rehabilitation.

"BCL always welcomes the genuine students in the dormitories, but not the persons accused of murder and the anti-liberation forces," he added.