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DU again suspends exams for 7 days

Varsity Correspondent

With no headway made for resumption of academic activities in the country's premier university, the authorities on Thursday once again suspended all the examinations scheduled for next seven days. Against a rigid stance from Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in calling off their nonstop strike, the Dhaka University Syndicate took the decision at its emergency meeting on Thursday evening.

The university has been gripped by an "unscheduled vacation" since July 29 as the BNP's student wing JCD enforced the nonstop student strike demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

The Syndicate urged the striking student organisation to call off their strike and requested the Liaison Committee to continue its negotiation process.

It also expressed concern over the panic gripped situation at the halls by occupying them "outsiders" and some students' leaving the dormitories.

Meanwhile, the striking JCD vowed to continue their strike until VC Prof Azad Chowdhury resigns. At a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla the JCD leaders said they would not tolerate "partisan" Prof Chowdhury in the highest chair of the university.

But a member of the Liaison Committee, formed by the Syndicate to negotiate with JCD, told this correspondent that they had achieved a development in negotiations.

Seeking anonymity the Liaison Officer said despite becoming the

student organisation of an elected ruling party, the JCD leaders showed a flexible stance in resolving the stalemate. "I hope a peaceful and reasonable solution to the crisis will be achieved within one week," he said.

Examinations of more than 500 papers were postponed as a result of the strike enforced since July 29. To recover the losses already incurred by the strike, the university authorities earlier planned to hold examinations on the weekly holidays (Fridays).

The Syndicate meeting was told that several rooms of different halls were ransacked and looted by outsiders after the October 1 polls. The outsiders threatened the Provosts and officials of different halls and assaulted an official of FR Hall and ransacked the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the meeting was told.

Meanwhile, the "ousted" JCD activists, who returned to the university dormitories and captured those on early Tuesday seeing BNP's landslide victory in Monday's parliamentary elections, conducted a "looting drive" in several halls on Wednesday night, hall sources said.

Interestingly, the Neo-JCD activists, who changed colours on early Tuesday, led the drives. President of DU unit JCD Monir Hossain ruled out any incident of loot conducted by JCD activists. "Those aren't our partisans he said.