

DUCSU polls postponed

Varsity Correspondent

The elections of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and 14 hall unions have been postponed on Monday.

The announcement for the postponement of DUCSU and hall elections due on April 12 was given on Monday night following the meetings of the provosts committee and All Party Council for Maintaining Campus Environment. An emergency meeting of hall provosts and proctor held at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor on Monday evening discussed the deteriorating campus situation and suggested postponement of the DUCSU and hall union elections.

Earlier in the afternoon the Council for Maintaining Campus Environment held a meeting at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor. Presided over by the V-C Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed the meeting was attended by the provosts, proctor, assistant proctors and representatives of different student organisations excepting Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) which decided to boycott the DUCSU election and had been demanding the election postponement accusing the university authorities of its failure to ensure peaceful atmosphere on the campus for a free and fair polls.

The meeting condemned the agitation by Chhatra League (M-I) on the campus during the last few days against DUCSU polls.

The last DUCSU and hall elections were held in 1990. The election were first postponed in 1991 in view of campus unrest. Since then for consecutive three years there was no

DUCSU and hall elections. Different student organisations had been demanding restoration of normalcy and eviction of armed hoodlums from the campus to hold DUCSU and hall elections in Dhaka University, the largest education institution and the hotbed of the country's student politics.

The holding of the DUCSU polls became uncertain as Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), an alliance of the eight left-leaning student organisations, joined BCL (M-I) move and announced on Monday their decision to boycott the elections in view of the failure of the university authorities to restore normalcy on the campus.

Earlier, pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) decided not to participate in the DUCSU elections as the university authorities did not fulfil its demand to evict armed

miscreants from the campus and bring back students who were compelled to leave the halls by activists of their rival student organisations.

Following the decision of Chhatra League (M-I) and GCO only ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jamaat Islami supported Islami Chhatra Shibir remained in the pro-election move. However, Chhatra Shibir has called press conference today (Tuesday) to announce its decision.

According to the university authorities' election schedule today (Tuesday) is the last day for filing nomination papers for DUCSU and 14 hall student's union elections. Earlier, Dhaka University authorities shifted the date for filing the nomination papers from March 27 following the strike called by Chhatra League (M-I) in the university that

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day. However, Chhatra League (M-I) gave a call for strike on the campus in protest against the filing of the nomination papers today (Tuesday). Chhatra League (M-I) had been demanding to shift the polls date and hold the elections after ensuring a peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

JCD leaders blame BCL

Meanwhile, in a press conference at the National Press Club on Monday the JCD and DUCSU leaders blamed Chhatra League (M-I) for creating uncertain situation on the campus by boycotting the DUCSU election and resorting to continuous destructive activities. They termed the Chhatra League's stand to boycott DUCSU polls and its demonstration on the campus during the last few days as undemocratic.

They said efforts and necessary arrangements have already been taken by the university authorities to hold the DUCSU polls and the student organisations are taking preparation to participate in the elections. But the only organisation Chhatra League (M-I) had adopted the path of violence and destruction sensing its sure defeat in the polls, they added.

They criticised the role of University Teachers' Association about the undemocratic activities of Chhatra League (M-I) and said that the silent role of DUTA over the attack on the V-C's office by Chhatra League (M-I) activities had hurt the general students.

They urged the Chhatra League (M-I) to refrain from destructive activities on the campus.

They also urged all democratic student organisations to extend cooperation to Dhaka University Authorities to hold the forthcoming DUCSU polls.

The Press conference was addressed, among others, by DUCSU V-P Amanullah Aman MP, General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khakon.

GCO to boycott polls

The decision to boycott the DUCSU polls by the GCO was announced at a Press conference on Monday afternoon at the university Madhu's canteen. GCL leaders said Chhatra League (M-I) has taken a negative stand to hold the DUCSU polls after announcing the polls date alleging in absence of congenial election atmosphere and afterward it has taken some action programmes which include demonstrations, gheerao, hoisting black flag that ultimately pushed the campus into deep crisis. On the other hand, the university authorities had failed to maintain peaceful atmosphere for holding the DUCSU polls, they added.

They said the role of the student organisations are important to maintain peaceful atmosphere on the campus but Chhatra League (M-I) is playing negative role raising some "illogical" demands. At this situation GCO did not want to go in the polls keeping the students' academic life hostage.

The Press conference was addressed among others by Ruhin Hossain Prince, Obaidul Haq Chunnu, Aslam Khan and Khairul Islam Rupan.

BCL gheeraos V-C

UNB adds: Pro-Awami Chhatra League gheeraoed Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed at the IBA in the campus to press for its demand for his resignation as well as postponement of the DUCSU polls.

The VC had gone to the IBA building to attend a function at about 11 a.m.

He was gheeraoed for at least two hours from 11 am to 1 pm when police came to rescue the Vice Chancellor. BCL activists shouted slogans against the VC and showed him black flags when he was escorted back to his office by police.

BCL also staged a rally in front of Aparaajeyo Bangla where its leaders warned of another strike at Dhaka University to Press the authorities for realising their demands.

The rally was addressed among others by Iqbalur Rahim, KHM Lizu and Pankoj Devnath.

Earlier, they boycotted an all-party meeting called by the Vice-Chancellor today (Monday) to discuss DUCSU polls as well as the campus situation.

JCS rally

UNB adds: Jatiya Party's student wing Jatiya Chhatra Samaj brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus on Monday allegedly with the help of outsiders demanding that the April 12 DUCSU polls be postponed.

The processionists numbering about 200 chanted slogans for the release of Ershad. Most of them were aged about 15 and none were students of the university campus sources said.

They held a brief rally at TSC road island and left the campus in a hurry.