



02/02/2002

DUSyndicate meet tomorrow

# Uneasy calm on campus

Varsity Correspondent

An uneasy calm was prevailing on the Dhaka University campus on Thursday, a day after stepping down of the Vice Chancellor and Proctor in the face of massive student outburst.

The agitating students on Thursday threatened to take recourse their programmes if the authorities didn't meet rest of their

demands immediately, as the campus still remained besieged.

Also on Thursday, the strict security cordon around the entire campus remained unchanged. Police took position behind the barbed-wire fences in riot-gear. None without identity card was allowed entry on the campus.

Acting Vice Chancellor formally took over his charge from his predecessor Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury in the morning.

The Chancellor of the university vested the responsibility of Vice Chancellor on Prof AFM Yousuf Haider as additional duty until further order as per article 11/2 of Dhaka University Ordinance 1973.

An emotional Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury wished his successor a good governance in the university where he taught for long 35 years.

The acting VC has called a special syndicate meeting to be held on Saturday. Decision on reopening of the dormitories and resumption of academic activities will be discussed. He also appointed Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman as the new Proctor of the university.

Huge students gathered inside the campus sneaking through the tight security measure. Madhu's Canteen, the hot bed of student politics, regained its normalcy

with the students' presence.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) observed a token hunger strike at Aparajeyo Bangla in the morning protesting the police attack on the teachers in the aftermath of the July 23 incidents at Shamsunnahar Hall.

More than 100 teachers participated in the fasting. President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury attended the programme and expressed solidarity with the teachers. Journalist Shafiqur Rahman and Abul Kalam Azad were present.

The teachers at the programme demanded withdrawal of the cases filed against the teachers and students and unconditional release of the detained students, immediate opening of the dormitories and resuming academic activities and ousting the non-student outsiders from the campus and ban their entry.

Acting VC Prof AFM Yousuf Haider went to the fasting teachers immediate after officially taking over the charge and expressed his solidarity. He broke the teachers' fasting offering them fruit juice.

At the impromptu gathering of teachers and students, he promised the teachers of implementing the all the demands of the students and teachers.

"Only the Syndicate can implement the rest of the demands, I'll try my level best to implement those," he told the teachers.

Students present there demanded immediate opening of the dormitories.

In the afternoon, the students under the banner of "Students Against Repression" held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding immediate implementation of the rest of their seven-point-demands.

"We'll wait till opening of the dormitories and observe the new administration's sincerity of meeting the demands," said a female student.

If our demands were not met, we have to continue the programmes, she added.

Language veteran Abdul Matin, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Anu Muhammad and Nur Mohammad addressed the spontaneous rally. A victim of the 23 July incident described her nightmare experience and demands immediate implementation of the demands.