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তারিখ ... 0-3 JUN 1990 ...
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Mixed reactions over DUCSU polls

Varsity Correspondent

Major student organisations active on Dhaka University campus, expressed mixed reaction over the holding of Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) election.

BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and JSD-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) favoured the holding of DUCSU election immediately but said that before holding the polls atmosphere conducive to the election, must be ensured. The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL), demanded immediate DUCSU election saying that the present atmosphere on the campus was highly favourable for holding the polls.

President of BCL (S-P) Enamul Haq Shamim while talking to the Bangladesh Observer said that the present campus situation was very much congenial for holding DUCSU polls. Replying to a question Shamim said, BCL was not patronising any terrorist in the university and elsewhere and ready to assist university authorities and police administration to make the campus free from terrorism. "DUCSU election is badly in need to bring dynamism in the academic activities of the university", he added.

Habib-Un-Nabi Sohel, General Secretary of JCD said that DUCSU election could not be held by allowing the outsiders and terrorists to stay on the campus and if the election was held without removing the outsiders and terrorists, now staying on

the campus under the banner of BCL (S-P), that will be a farcical election. "The Chhatra Dal members will resist such a farcical election at any cost", he said. He urged the university authorities to take necessary steps to bring back congenial atmosphere in the campus for holding DUCSU election.

A Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) leader and President of Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) Hasan Hafizur Rahman Sohel favoured immediate holding of DUCSU election and said that the holding of election regularly could remove 50 per cent terrorism from the campus. "But before holding of the election terrorists staying under the banner of both BCL and JCD should be arrested and organisational activities of all the student organisations must be ensured in all the dormitories", he added.

The General Secretary of JSD-backed BCL Karim Shikder demanded immediate DUCSU election after arresting the terrorists from the campus and also demanded inclusion of a DUCSU election date in the Academic Calender of the university.

The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof A.K. Azad Chowdhury earlier, said that DUCSU polls might be held in October or November this year. The DU authorities would call the leaders of different student organisations to fix up the schedule for the polls after the Summer vacation, he added.

Earlier, the Dhaka University Syndicate in a meeting on Wednesday approved a new Constitution for the DUCSU and dissolved its eight year old committee which was elected in June 1990.

It may be mentioned that DU authorities had taken initiatives to hold DUCSU polls on three occasions after 1990 polls. Those attempts were foiled due to opposition different by student organisations.