

CU senate meet held amid confusion

Chittagong Office

CHITTAGONG, July 7:— The ninth annual budget meeting of Chittagong University Senate was held on the campus residence of the Vice-Chancellor tonight.

The meeting started at about 6-30 in the evening with a limited number of Senate members. It could not be known whether the quorum of the meeting was maintained.

Earlier, the Chittagong University authorities announced the postponement of the Senate meeting in the face of stiff opposition by a section of teachers, students and political activists.

In the wake of the announcement of the postponement of the meeting the opponents withdrew the blockade in and around the campus.

Chittagong University Shikkhak Samity and Chittagong University Jatiyatabadi Shikkhak Parishad condemned the holding of Senate meet-

ing in a fraudulent manner under the protection of police and BDR.

Several gun shots were heard at Madanhat gate of the University creating confusion and panick among the local people.

However, report of any casualty was not received till writing of this report at 11 p.m.

Earlier in the morning the Senate meeting was thwarted by opponents to force the incumbent Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alamgir Mohammad Shirajuddin to leave his post. Those who firmly pledged to stand by the Vice-Chancellor in holding of Senate meeting appeared to have finally fell back. The political forces who extended support to the present Vice-Chancellor are: General Teachers Parishad, APSU, CUCSU and Chittagong University Ex-students Forum.

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However, APSU and CUCSU supporters gathered at Madanhat point near Chittagong University. On the other hand the Sangrami Chhatra Oikyo supporters and Shibir activists took their position at Chittagong University main gate. A good number Shibir activists was also found loitering around the residence of the Vice-Chancellor inside the campus. However, the police asked Shibir activists to vacate campus at around 2 p.m. After the Shibir activists departure from the campus, some teachers picketed in front of the residence of Vice-Chancellor apparently to resist the holding of Senate meeting. The Senate members who could finally make their way to the University were not more than 25 out of the total 91 members. Mentionably, 23 Senate members belonging to the Registered Graduate Parishad earlier declared to boycott the Senate meeting. However it seems that there was also a problem of quorum.

There is also notable dampening spirit among the teachers and students who are the camp followers of the Vice-Chancellor after the announcement of decision of the Government for publication of Judicial Commission report on the incident of December 22 in which one student was killed and many other teachers and students were injured. The Commission report is understood to have held Vice-Chancellor to some extent responsible for that incident.

There is also another significant development in the matter of Chittagong University. The Chittagong city BNP unit for the first time issued a statement urging the Government for announcement of Judicial Commission report on Chittagong University. The statement signed by BNP's acting President Badrul Anowar and General Secretal Ekramul Karim also called upon the University authorities to refrain from holding of Syndicate-Senate meeting before the punishment of accused person in the Line of Commission report to avoid further bloodshed.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Chittagong Unit President Begum Umartul Fazal and General Secretary Begum Nur Jahan Khan in joint statement to the Press expressed grave concern and indignation for what was called a heinous attempt of anti-liberation forces for disruption of Senate meeting at Chittagong University today. However, four battalions of Chittagong Police and two battalions of Bangladesh Rifles remained on guard in and around Chittagong University to check any possible outbreak of violence. There were many armed persons also found moving in and around the campus. There was extreme tense situation in Chittagong University today.