

FALLOUT OF POLITICAL IMPASSE

DU academic activities at standstill

150 exams deferred

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Academic activities at Dhaka University (DU) have come to a standstill due to current political unrest since a couple of days before the caretaker government took the helm.

About 150 examinations have been deferred and no classes held since then.

Moreover, Chhatra Sangram Parishad, an alliance of seven students organisations backed by 14-party alliance, has enforced an indefinite strike on the campus since November 19 protesting the attacks on their leaders and activists by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the day.

The present situation will add to the session jam of the university, which is already experiencing a session jam of over one and a half

years, students said.

The university reopened on November 11 after a month-long Eid and Puja vacation and 11-day unscheduled closure, but classes were held on only three days until November 19. And more than 150 examinations of different faculties and institutes have been deferred so far, according to sources in the office of the examination controller.

Uncertainty also looms over the admission tests for first year honours classes under the session 2006-07.

"Our third year final examinations began in the last week of September. Since then the schedule has been changed thrice, but we are yet to complete the exams," said a student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department.

It will take at least two to three months to complete the deferred examinations, said Prof Harun-or-

Rashid, dean of social sciences faculty.

DU Treasurer Prof Syed Kalam Azad said the authorities hold more classes and examinations by reducing scheduled vacation holidays to minimise the loss at first the university needs a normal atmosphere.

However, the DU syndicate take any decisions in this regard.

Former president of DU Teachers Association (Duta) Prof AAMS Siddique told The Daily Star the impasse in the national politics be resolved first, which would bring back normalcy to the campus.

The authorities should ensure peaceful co-existence of student bodies and make the campuses free from illegal arms to a congenial atmosphere of campus headed