

DU final exams begin today

DU Correspondent

The long awaited honours and masters degree final examinations under course system of Dhaka University begin today amidst fear of violence.

The examinations which earlier began on October 24 were postponed following an armed clash on October 27 between two rival groups of students resulting

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in the killing of two students, one outsider and a street urchin.

The honours final examinations which were scheduled to be held three years ago have been postponed for more than eleven times while the masters degree final examinations for six times. About 10 thousand students of the university have been trapped in the backlog of their academic session due to prolonged campus violence.

The ruling party backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (A-A) agreed to extend cooperation to the university authorities for peaceful holding of the examinations. Leaders of both the student organisations held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor and agreed in principle not to attack each other anymore.

But campus sources said, the armed activists were moving freely in different residential dormitories and they were taking preparation for another showdown soon.

Immediately after the October 27 incident, the teachers of the university at the call of their association went on a strike demanding security of teachers and students on the campus. For the first the teachers also included examinations within their strike programme for which the examinations faced further setback. The teachers later exempted the examinations from their strike programme but they demanded that the authorities must ensure security of the examiners and examinees.

In this backdrop the examinations are going to be held today amidst confusion. The university authorities have reportedly sought help from the law enforcing agencies in this connection.

The classes of the university are being boycotted by the teachers and the situation on the campus is still described by the authorities as volatile.

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