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DUCSU polls uncertain

DU Admin fails to fulfil demands: BCL

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The holding of elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and 14 hall students' unions scheduled on April 12 have become uncertain due to inaction of the authorities to fulfil some conditions including restoration of peaceful atmosphere on the campus.

The University authorities assured the student organisations that it would take some prior measures to ensure safe return of ousted students to their respective dormitories and for conducting their polls related activities in all halls without any obstruction. A section of student organisations raised these demands as a pre-condition to their participation in the elections scheduled for April 12. But the university authorities did little in this respect when the distribution of nomination papers among the candidates begins tomorrow (Monday), says a student leader.

Meanwhile, the classes resumed on Saturday after Eid holiday.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) at a rally on the opening day of the university on Saturday feared that DUCSU election would not be free and fair under the administration of Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed. The incumbent V-C Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed is a member of Zia Parishad, a front organisation of ruling BNP, and he was playing a partisan role that may hamper the holding of fair polls, they added.

The rally, held at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla, was addressed, among others, by Chhatra League President Moinuddin Hasan Chowdhury, General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim and Dhaka University Unit General Secretary Pankaj Devnath.

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DUCSU polls

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They said that some residential halls including Mohsin Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Zia Hall, Mujib Hall, Jasimuddin Hall, and Zahurul Haq Hall are under the control of terrorists and the ousted activists of Chhatra League could not stay in their rooms due to the obstruction of terrorists. Chhatra League drew the attention of the university authorities to this issue but no measures were taken to solve the problems till Saturday, they alleged.

Branding the V-C as an agent of BNP Government, Chhatra League said that Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed was acting in favour of a student organisation to consolidate his present position. They urged the V-C to play impartial role in holding the DUCSU polls. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a movement against him, they warned.

They demanded immediate dissolution of the present body of DUCSU and creation of a peaceful atmosphere for holding of DUCSU polls.

The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a joint body of the eight left-leaning student organisations, at a rally on Saturday urged the university students to rally under its banner in the forthcoming DUCSU polls with a view to making this students' union as a centre of student movement.

Addressing the rally in front of the DUCSU building, GCO leaders demanded restoration of peaceful atmosphere on the campus to hold the DUCSU polls and called upon all to remain alert against any conspiracy in this respect.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Mostaq Alam Tulu, Obaidul Haq Chunnu and Khairul Alam Rupam.

Meanwhile, most of the student organisations have informally started their candidates selection process for the DUCSU and hall students' unions polls.

The ruling party backed JCD is trying to reach a compromise with the rival faction Ilias Group to ensure its victory in the DUCSU polls. The BNP high command has formed a committee to handle the JCD's DUCSU polls related activities. The committee urged the interested JCD leaders to apply mentioning the names of his or her preferable post to the committee immediately.

The Ilias Group brought out a procession and held a rally at Curzon Hall and TSC area on Saturday to make the DUCSU polls a success.

The pro-Awami League Chhatra League (M-I) is steadily proceeding in selecting its candidates for the polls. There are a number of candidates for the posts of DUSCU V.P. and GS but final selection would be made by the Student Affairs Committee of Awami League with the consent of the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, a Chhatra League leader said.

The GCO is facing a tough crisis in selecting the candidates as the two main organisations—Chhatra Union and JSD (Inu) Chhatra League (B-K)—are strongly lobbying for the post of DUCSU V-P. GCO, a combined body of eight left-leaning student organisations, earlier decided to contest the ensuing polls under its own banner.