



DUCSU polls by Jan next

By A Staff Reporter

The election to the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) is likely to be held by the end of January next.

Elections to the hall students unions will also be held simultaneously with the DUCSU polls.

Prof Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University in an exclusive interview with The Times said that the exact date of the DUCSU and hall students unions polls would be fixed at a meeting of the deans, provosts, senior professors and officers of the university next week.

The meeting will also form an election commission for conducting the polls.

The Vice-Chancellor said that leaders of all the students groups had given opinion in favour of holding the polls early during talks with him.

Dhaka University has been going without the DUCSU and hall students unions since dissolution of the elected unions in 1982 following imposition of martial law in the country.

There was no bar, however, on holding the polls after withdrawal of martial law in 1986.

The Vice-Chancellor said

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that the Education Ministry had told him to arrange the polls on several occasions. But the elections could not be planned due to unrest on the campus, he said.

Prof. Abdul Mannan said that the university administration had been facing excessive load of work for the want of elected bodies of the students. He said that the election of the central and hall students unions of the university would reduce pressure on the administration and make the procedure of work easier.

The Vice-Chancellor lauded the role of the Dhaka University Education Environment Council comprising leaders of students groups, teachers, officers and employees unions and the university administration in maintaining a congenial atmosphere on the campus during the absence of the DUCSU.

The Vice-Chancellor maintained reservation in replying the question whether the Education Environment Council would be dissolved after the election of the DUCSU.

Asked if the university authority had plans to improve the quality of meals served in the residential halls of students the Vice-Chancellor said that no improvement was possible under the present circumstances. He said that the standard of food could be improve to some extent only if the students themselves took the responsibility of managing the dining halls through a mess system.