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DU teachers, students, resume classes

Dhaka University reopened Sunday as teachers and students attended classes defying a government order that closed it last month, reports UNB.

Wearing black badges to protest the Educational Institutions (Law and Order) Ordinance 1990, the teachers and students resumed classes at 8 Sunday morning as heavy police contingents guarded the campus.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) on November 7 announced the unofficial resumption of classes from Sunday one day ahead the expiry of the one-month closure under the provision of the education ordinance.

The DUTA decision was promptly supported by Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU), All-Party Students Unity (APSU) and opposition political parties and alliances.

According to witnesses, hundreds of DU students, packed in seven University buses, brought out a victory procession after the academic period and moved around the city chanting anti-government slogans.

The first class of the day began with Head of the Bangla Department Abul Kalam Manjur Morshed delivering lectur on democratic movement and contemporary politics.

Dr. Sanjida Khatun of Bangla Department, Prof. Ferdous Ahmed of Political Science, Dr. Sadrul Amin of English, Dr. Rangalal Sen of Sociology and Prof. Tauhidul Anwar, Dr. Golam Rahman and Dr. Ahaduzzaman Muhammad Ali of Journalism Department also took classes in the morning.

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DU teachers

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Dhaka University was closed down on October 13 promulgating the ordinance in the wake of an intense student agitation since October 10 opposition sit-in around the Secretariat when a student and five others were killed.

The dissidents said the ordinance had curbed the University autonomy provided by the University Ordinance, 1973 and challenged it in the High Court.

BSS adds:—Addressing the students in front of the Press Club, DUCSU Transportation Secretary Jahangir Alam said, the University buses will run in different routes of the city on schedule. He urged the students to avail the opportunity to attend classes from Monday.

When contacted, the Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Mia, told BSS that the University authorities had not taken any decision on resuming the classes Sunday.

A University Press release said that a meeting of the members of the Syndicate and DUCSU, V.Ps and G.Ss of the hall unions and leaders of 22 student organizations, held Sunday evening with the Vice-Chancellor in the chair, discussed in detail issues on the reopening of the University and halls and the security of the students.

Final decision, in this connection, will be taken Monday at the meeting of University Syndicate following a discussion between the Vice-Chancellor and the provosts of the residential halls at 12 noon Monday, the Press release said.

The student leaders have been requested to submit a concrete proposal to the Vice-Chancellor on the basis of mutual consultation within two days regarding the security of all in the University campus, the Press release added.