

DUCSU polls likely to be held by Jan

The overdue election to the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) and hall unions is likely to be held by January.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, who took over on September 30, gave the tentative time in an interview with UNB at his official residence on Sunday.

"The university authorities are now trying to restore congenial academic atmosphere on the campus in order to hold a free and fair DUCSU election," he said.

In this regard, the VC said all the dormitories of the university would have to be freed from outsiders and illegal armsholders.

"To ensure an arms-free campus, law-enforcing agencies have already chalked out a master plan. According to the plan, a hunt for the terrorists will be launched very soon," he informed.

Regarding the police operation,

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Prof Chowdhury categorically said that from now police would not only raid some select rooms. They will take stern action against those who hold arms, he added.

The Vice-Chancellor emphasised change in some clauses of the DUCSU constitution. "We want to change a few clauses of the DUCSU constitution to regularise its election system".

Prof Chowdhury, in this regard, said: There should be a system to that, if needed, the Vice-Chancellor who is the DUCSU president could take over the total body after the completion of its one-year tenure.

The VC said that he would immediately discuss the matter in the Senate. "We also want to talk with teachers' association and different student organisations".

In reply to a question about validity of the present DUCSU elected on June 6 in 1990, the VC said actually it has no effectiveness now.

He, however, said according to a clause of the DUCSU constitution the office-bearers lost their posts after expiry of their student life.

But, Prof Chowdhury said, another clause says the office-bearers would continue their charge till their successors step in.

"These two clauses are contradictory. But the first clause is much important than the second. So the present DUCSU has lost its validity," he said.

To another question of President's remarks about moratorium on student politics, the VC said politics and terrorism are different from each other. "We should allow politics to take its own-course".

"Only for few terrorists we should not ban student politics forgetting about their glorious history in every democratic movement for our country," he said.

But, he hastened to add, if the President, who is also the Chancellor of the University, decides to ban student politics, he (VC) would not contradict.