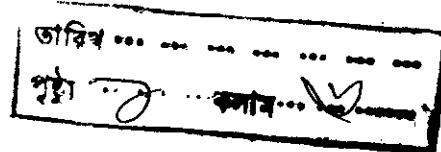


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THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

To ensure terrorism free campus

DU permits police to enter all dormitories

Varsity Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities on Sunday decided to give permission to the law enforcers to conduct a massive search for illegal arms in all the dormitories.

The decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the University Senate, Syndicate, Deans, Provosts, Chairmen of different departments, Proctor and Directors with Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

As per decision, law enforcement people would conduct sudden raids in each and every room of the dormitories in presence of all concerned. Only resident and those having permission will be allowed to stay in the dormitories.

The authorities also urged the student organisations to withdraw their scheduled strikes on July 24 and from July 29 for the sake of peace and stability on the campus and smooth running of academic activities.

The university authorities are determined to reinstate any genuine student to the halls who had been ousted on political grounds; it was resolved in Sunday's meeting.

The authorities, in a communiqué, urged all the victims and the student organisations to contact them and discuss their problems.

Despite speculations of violent clashes, the DU authorities are still optimistic about defusing the present tension through dialogue among the leaders of the student bodies active on the campus.

VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury later told reporters that they expected a positive attitude from the student organisations. "There's nothing to gain by foiling the academic atmosphere," he said.

If not withdrawn, the strikes called by student bodies would

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DU permits

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affect the examinations or 144 papers of different departments, the VC pointed out.

"The university would fall in the vortex of session jam for at least six months only by a day-long strike," Prof Chowdhury said and piously hoped, "The student bodies would consider their programmes that affect the general students, for whom they do politics."

Meanwhile, the DU authorities allowed the law enforcing agencies to enter the campus without previous permission to conduct any operation. The agencies are also allowed to search and interrogate any suspected person on the campus.

The Dhaka University Order 1973 that guarantees autonomy contradicts any intervention by police and others to enter the campus without prior permission.

The meeting expressed concern at the 'ridiculous and illogical' demand of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to search the VC's House and residences of the Hall Provosts to recover illegal arms.

The meeting also condemned the demand for resignation of the VC who was re-elected by the Senate and appointed by the Chancellor of the university.

Replying to a question VC Prof Azad Chowdhury said the authorities were repeatedly asking the student leaders to join the dialogue but there was hardly any response.

Expressing frustration at the reluctance of the student leaders, Prof Chowdhury said, "We'll have nothing to do if the latest initiative fails."