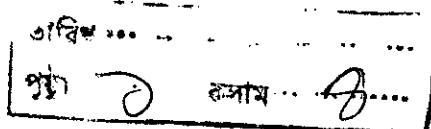


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Ousted JCD activists return to DU halls

A group of "ousted" activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) returned to their dormitories in Dhaka University Tuesday following BNP's victory in Monday's elections, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the group led by JCD's DU unit general secretary Mostafizul Islam Mamun "captured" all the residential halls of the university except Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall in the morning.

JCD activists allegedly beat up two leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Polash of Jagannath Hall and Medha, president of BCL's Rokeya Hall unit, and drove them out of the halls.

In many halls, the sources said, Chhatra League cadres and activists who were guarding the halls "welcomed" the activists of JCD, the student front of BNP.

Hall presidents, secretaries and

other leaders of BCL had left the dormitories Monday night sensing an election debacle of its parent organisation Awami League, BCL sources said.

The DU halls were almost vacant as residential students went home during the non-stop strike enforced by JCD since August 17 demanding rehabilitation of its activists.

BCL activists captured the halls in 1996 after Awami League came to power. They ousted almost all JCD activists in 1998.

As the Caretaker Government took over on July 15, JCD started agitation demanding that they be allowed to return to the halls. They also demanded resignation of the Vice Chancellor.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof AK Azad Chowdhury could not be reached for his comments.