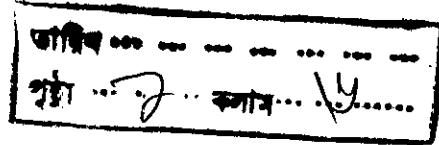


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DU keen to hold talks with student leaders

Varsity Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities are again planning to hold a roundtable conference with student leaders to resolve the ongoing crisis on the campus, official sources said. A planned talk earlier could not be held due to non-cooperation of some student organisations including JCD.

After several rounds of meetings with the major student organisations, the authorities now feel that the views of the student bodies should be accommodated and a fruitful outcome could be achieved through meaningful talks.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer a senior teacher said that the views of student bodies were conflicting. "If they sit together, the problem could be resolved," he said. He is also a member of the Eight-member Committee which was assigned to hold negotiation with the student organisations.

After the "farcical" "inspection drives" in all the male dormitories, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) demanded a massive search in the five halls of the northern area of the campus to rehabilitate their supporters there.

Left-wing student organisations at a meeting with the committee on Monday clearly opposed the JCD proposal, terming it a conspiracy to share the halls between the two major student organisations - JCD and BCL.

The pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) opposed the JCD's latest gesture for peace.

"There's something wrong in the proposal," said a Vice-President of BCL. "Why the number is only five, not all the halls?" he said.

Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), an umbrella of five student organisations, and Biplobi Chhatra Moitree, Biplobi Chhatra Sangha, Jatiya Chhatra Dal on Monday met the members of the committee formed by the Syndicate.

Other left leaning student organisations said they would not join 'peace process' if it is designed to divide the halls between JCD and BCL.

Meanwhile, 216 teachers belonging to Pro-Awami League Blue Panel in a joint statement on Monday expressed their concern

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at the continuation of the strike on the campus.

The academic activities suffered seriously by the strike and the examinees of different departments were affected by it, the teachers said.

Terming the callers of the strike as "anti-liberation force, opposed to Bangali Nationalism and patrons of the fanatic fundamentalist forces", they said that the demands of the organisation were politically motivated.

About the demand for resignation of the VC, the Blue Panel teachers said the Senate elected him (Azad Chowdhury) and the university should be run by the decisions of the Senate and Syndicate, not by any dictation from outside.

The 8th day of the nonstop shutdown on the campus enforced by JCD passed off without any untoward incident on Monday. However, both JCD and BCL demonstrated on the campus for and against the strike.