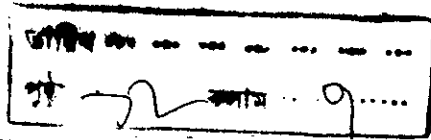


Daily Star

01/11/2009



Inspection drive at DU halls

Only a revolver recovered

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities backed by 600 policemen and 400 BDR personnel yesterday conducted a massive search operation in all its men's dormitories to recover illegal arms and expel outsiders.

None was however arrested in the police-BDR joint operation and only an abandoned revolver and seven rounds of bullets were recovered from room no. 468 of Surya Sen Hall during the four-hour-long drive.

Campus sources said that police and BDR cordoned off all the 11 men's dormitories at 10am and locked their main entrances after ordering out all residents. The search teams led by hall house tutors then checked each room, rooftop and adjacent areas of every dormitory. They also broke open students' drawers, trunks, bags and lockers looking for illegal arms.

University authorities also sealed off more than a hundred rooms in different halls that were found locked.

After the operation, the house tutors with the help of law enforcing agencies checked students' valid identity cards and other necessary documents at the hall gates before letting them in.

Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury while talking to a group of reporters after the drive said that the halls are now free of outsiders and firearms.

He thanked the students for their cooperation during the drive and expressed his regrets for their inconvenience caused by the drive.

Campus sources however said that armed outsiders belonging to the BCL occupied all the dormitories immediately after the drive.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and left-leaning Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Drive at DU halls

FROM PAGE 12

Chhatra Union (BCU) termed yesterday's drive as 'farical' and a 'staged drama', while Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) welcomed it.

After a rally on the campus, JCD leaders told reporters that their strike would continue until their demands are fulfilled. They alleged that BCL terrorists are still in possession of their illegal firearms and the drive has only served to cause harassment of the general students.

JCD has been enforcing an indefinite strike at the university since July 29 to press for their five-point demand, including resignation of the VC, rehabilitation of ousted JCD activists in the dormitories, recovery of illegal arms from the dormitories and arrest of outsiders.

JCD leaders, however, said they

would consider withdrawing their strike if authorities are sincere about meeting their demands, excluding the one for the vice-chancellor's resignation. They said they are yet to get any formal offer for dialogue with the authorities.

On the other hand, BCL leaders addressing a rally on campus yesterday vowed to drive JCD out from the campus. They also asked their men to start breaking the locks on the gates from tomorrow that were put up by JCD.

Meanwhile, on the fifth day of the JCD-enforced indefinite strike, all classes of the university were suspended and university transports remained off the campus roads. Examinations scheduled for yesterday had been postponed earlier.