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Body formed to end stalemate

BCL to resist DU strike

Varsity Correspondent

Dhaka University authorities have formed a powerful committee to negotiate with the student organisations, aiming at resolving the present impasse.

The committee headed by the DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury has already started contacting the student bodies including the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

The dialogues will start at 12:00 noon today (Saturday) at the Administrative Building. Apart from negotiations with JCD the authorities will also sit with pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), left-leaning student unity Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and JSD-backed BCL.

The committee was formed at an emergency meeting of the university Syndicate on Friday afternoon.

The other members of the committee are Pro-VC Prof M Shahadat Ali, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof Yousuf Halder, Sharifullah Bhuiyan, Mohabbat Ali and Proctor Prof AKM Noor-un-Nabi.

The stalemate on the campus begun after calling a

nonstop shutdown on the campus by JCD, the student wing of BNP since July 29 demanding resignation of the VC, recovery of illegal arms, arrest of terrorist and reinstatement of the JCD activists to the dormitories.

The Syndicate on Friday's meeting again postponed all the examinations scheduled for Saturday and Sunday.

The authorities have been postponing the examinations since July 29. About ten thousand examinees suffered due to the strike. Examinations of 115 papers of 45 departments were suspended due to the strike.

The authorities said the university would suffer at least six-month long session jam due to postponement of one examination alone.

The authorities do not want to return to the days of uncertainty, which ended five to six years back, VC Prof Azad Chowdhury told a Press conference held at his office.

The VC hoped that the striking student organisation would come to the negotiation table and added, "We will be able to avert the possibilities of bloodshed, insecurity

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BCL

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and uncertainty".

The student organisations expressed mixed reactions at the authorities' initiative.

Welcoming the initiative BCL president Bahadur Bepari said BCL was always ready to resolve the impasse. "But we will never support the attempts to destroy the students career," he said.

BCL will demonstrate on the campus today (Saturday) with books and pens in hands. The organisation warned on Wednesday that they would resist the strike from Saturday if it was not withdrawn.

When contacted JCD General Secretary Shahabuddin Laitu ruled out the possibility of calling off the strike. About the authorities' initiative he told that they would take decision Friday night on the issue.

Besides the authorities initiative the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has called a meeting today (Saturday) to discuss the campus situation.

Sources said some teachers belonging to BNP-Jamaat-backed White Panel were pressing the authorities to close the university for a certain period to bring back the congenial atmosphere. But the authorities have rejected the proposal.

The University Syndicate has sought appointment with the Chief Adviser to apprise of him the campus situation but it was yet to be fixed.

The Vice Chancellor earlier called on President and Chancellor of the university Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed. The Chancellor directed him to run the university according to the decisions of Senate and Syndicate, the VC said.

Meanwhile, some youths hurled bombs at the residence of Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Provost of Sir AF Rahman Hall on Friday night.

The Syndicate condemned the attack and asked all to refrain from such acts.