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Withdrawal of army camp at DU begins

Govt regrets; judicial probe in process

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday ordered withdrawal of the army camp from Dhaka University (DU) campus by today, and a judicial enquiry into the violent incidents that left over 250 people, mostly students, injured in the last two days.

Action will be taken against persons responsible for the incidents, the government said.

The army already started pulling out from 8:00 last night and hoped to complete by early this morning.

Reviewing the situation arising out of disturbances on the DU campus since Monday evening, the interim government deeply regretted the incidents and appealed to all

concerned to maintain peace and discipline on campuses.

In the face of violent protest by thousands of students at beating up students and demand for withdrawal of the army camp, a high level meeting chaired by Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office yesterday afternoon took these decisions.

"An enquiry has been initiated by the army into the 'unfortunate incident' that took place yesterday (Monday) on the Dhaka University playground, and the investigation would be concluded as soon as possible, and action against those found responsible will be taken," said an official statement after the meeting.

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Meantime, the army person responsible for Monday's soccer match incident was withdrawn from the army camp on the DU campus yesterday, and an investigation against him has begun, said an ISPR press release.

In the wake of violence on the DU campus, the chief adviser initiated the move to defuse the tense situation on campuses and discussed the overall situation at the meeting he chaired.

The meeting was attended by advisers concerned, the army chief, home secretary, pro-vice chancellor of the DU, chiefs of law enforcement agencies and senior civil and military officials.

Following directives from the CA's office, the home ministry initiated formation of a judicial body to investigate the DU incidents.

"We are going to send a proposal to the office of the chief adviser for his approval to form a judicial probe body," a senior official of the ministry told The Daily Star last night.

The process was supposed to be completed by last night so that the law ministry can issue a gazette notification on the formation of the probe body.

"We are proposing formation of a one-member probe body comprising a Supreme Court judge or a district judge. The government will take the decision regarding this," the official said.

The law ministry will finalise terms of reference of the probe body, he added.