

BCL captures DU rooms ignoring Hasina's directive

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Ignoring Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's instructions, cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) have occupied the rooms of many students, journalists and leaders of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in all dormitories of Dhaka University.

Resident students alleged that the BCL cadres have also gathered firearms in the university halls which, along with the internal clashes among BCL factions, has frightened them.

Meanwhile, DU authorities on Thursday postponed all examinations until January 5, for "unavoidable reasons".

After the landslide victory of the AL-led grand alliance in the ninth parliamentary elections, Hasina directed BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton not to engage in any violence on the campus, BCL sources said.

Hasina also directed BCL top leaders for taking strict action against those responsible for such violence, if any.

But cadres of the AL's student wing vandalised furniture and documents of JCD men and locked the rooms of many journalists, including DU correspondent of the daily Sangbad and a

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sub-editor of The Daily Star. They also vandalised the rooms of reporters of the daily Sangram and daily Nayadiganta.

Besides, a few former BCL leaders, who were not on the campus during the last seven years because of the dominance by JCD--student wing of BNP, have returned to campus with a good number of outsiders and firearms.

Hundreds of general students, who are roommates of JCD leaders, found their rooms locked after returning to their dormitories after the month-long Eid and winter vacations in the last three days.

A resident of Mohsin Hall told The Daily Star that he voted for the AL-led grand alliance thinking that there will be changes in all sectors. "But there is no change. Chhatra League men are doing the same as the Chhatra Dal," he said.

Sources concerned said after return of the former BCL men and their cadres the overall situation in the dormitories and on the campus is almost out of

control of DU unit BCL President Shohel Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha.

Talking to The Daily Star, both the leaders blamed these unwanted incidents on these former party men many of whom are not students anymore.

Top BCL leaders at DU said these BCL men are trying to establish their dominance in the dorms afresh by any means, especially by bringing in firearms, although they have no acceptance at the grassroots level.

Many warned of sudden massive violence on the campus if the situation is not controlled immediately.

Top BCL leaders have conveyed this message to the leaders of its DU unit, but the latter are unable to handle violent situation and anti-organisational activities as internal conflicts are increasing gradually.

Sources said the incumbent committee of the BCL unit at DU would be dissolved soon because of this.