

Students of DU halls asked to update ID cards

Varsity Correspondent

In the wake of ongoing Army-led joint drive against terrorism across the country, the residents of Dhaka University dormitories are gripped by panic over a possible assault on them.

From the previous experience of raids by the armed forces, many residents do not stay at the DU halls at night.

Amid the panicky situation, two mysterious leaflets circulated on the campus on Monday raised questions among the students. Unidentified people circulated those at Madhu's Canteen and the Teachers' lounges.

Authorities of all the dormitories asked the residents to update their identity cards to avert any misunderstanding with the security forces at the time of any possible raid.

After the instruction long queues of students were seen at the offices of the dormitories to renew the ID cards and pay the hall dues.

Every night, rumours run high that army could enter the halls. Many students instantly leave the halls hearing the rumours since the joint drive began.

"They never could nab any terrorist other than humiliating the general students," said a resident of Haji Muhammad Muhsin Hall, who was earlier picked up by paramilitary BDR despite having all necessary documents.

The growing panic made hall authorities much happy as the "disturbing elements" left the dormitories.

"The dormitories are now free from politically backed musclemen believed to be involved in criminal activities," said one of the guards of Jasimuddin Hall.

The authorities are satisfied over the students' eagerness to pay the hall dues and update the identity cards. "After giving repeated reminders, we failed to realise the establishment charges, but the military panic forced the students to pay the dues," said a house-tutor of Ziaur Rahman Hall.

"Army raid! I'll not stay in hall till the operation continues, no minister will release me if they nab me," said a cadre of ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Army has already set up a camp inside the Dhaka University Physical Training Centre. About 300 jawans are staying in the camp at the centre's gymnasium. Students of the university were deprived of doing physical exercises and playing there. The playground has been turned to parking zone of military vehicles.

Acting DU Proctor Prof ASM Atiqur Rahman told The Bangladesh Observer that if any operation is needed in the dormitories, it would be done with the permission from the university authorities.