



Early reopening of DU uncertain

Varsity Correspondent

Frustrating many students eagerly waiting for reopening of the Dhaka University, the university authorities failed to reach any concrete decision on the touchy issue.

The university Syndicate at its emergency meeting on Saturday afternoon just approved the decision of closing the university sine die by the immediate past Vice Chancellor on his individual decision.

Acting VC Prof AFM Yousuf Haider said he would reopen the university as soon as possible. "We're working hard to open the university soon, but it wouldn't be wise to reopen the university before restoring congenial atmosphere," Prof Haider told the journalists.

"As the university was shut down due to an untoward situation, it might be 'suicidal' to reopen the university without bringing back normalcy," he added.

He hoped that the next Syndicate meeting would be able to decide about reopening the university. "Before that I'll discuss with the Deans, Provosts, teachers and others concerned about the process of the university's re-

The authorities will make necessary arrangements withdrawal of the cases filed against the students in connection with the July 23 and its subsequent incidents, the VC said.

Prof Chowdhury regretted to the students of Shamsunnahar Hall for not being able to open the dormitory. He apologised for their discomfort those were deposing their witnesses of that night before the judicial inquiry commission.

Campus sources said the authorities fear further agitation if the dormitories were opened before meeting the rest of the demands of agitating students including withdrawal of cases.

A senior executive of the university, seeking anonymity, said the authorities are waiting for the reports of the probe bodies especially the judicial inquiry commission.

At Saturday's meeting, the acting VC apprised the Syndicate about Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury's resignation from the university's top post and his appointment as an interim VC.

The Syndicate reshuffled the probe-body formed to investigate into the July 23 predawn police intervene in Shamsunnahar Hall and the subsequent incidents. DU

Treasurer Prof Syed Rashidul Hasan is the new head of the committee. Syndicate members Prof ABM Mahmud and M Hasanuzzaman were also inducted to the committee. The committee has been asked to submit report by next two week.

Replying a query, the acting VC said, "I don't see any cause to shift the examinations bodily." "The exams would begin in just time as all the classes of the courses were finished."

The Syndicate condemned the police assault on Dr Anwar Hossain of Biochemistry Department on July 29 on the campus.

Nine of the 17 syndicate-members attended the emergency meeting and urged the students, teachers and guardians to help cordially to bring back normalcy on the campus.

Former VC Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury closed the university sine die through his jurisdiction under Article 12/3 of Dhaka University Order 1973 on July 27.

Knowing the outcome of the Syndicate meeting the students gathered on the campus expressed their frustration.

"I hoped the university would be open within one or two days.

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Reopening of DU

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That's why I returned Dhaka,"

said Arif, a student of Journalism.

"The closure threw my life into a misery as I've no place to live in Dhaka," said a resident of Surya Sen Hall.

Meanwhile, the campus situation was much normal than the previous days. The police restriction at the entrances was eased on Saturday.

Madhu's Canteen, the hot bed of student politics, full of student leaders and activists.

UNB adds: However, a syndicate member who was present in the meeting told UNB that the acting VC requested the members not to press him for fixing any specific date for reopening of the university.

Some members wanted to know why the acting VC wants time when the university was closed at short notice. They also recalled the acting VC's comments on record when he told the electronic media that within a week or so the university would be reopened.

The acting VC informed the syndicate that he needed time to discuss the situation with other concerned quarters, including Provost Standing Committee and Heads of Departments and Institutes, before resumption of classes.

Today's meeting reconstituted the DU probe committee with Prof Rashidul Hasan as its head and requested him to submit report on the incident at Shamsunnahar Hall.

ducted in the probe body.

It condemned police excesses inflicting serious leg injury on Biochemistry department chairman Prof Anwar Hossain during campus protest.

After the resignation of Vice-chancellor Anwarullah Chowdhury and Proctor Nazrul Islam on Wednesday, the students are now demanding immediate reopening of the university.

Syndicate members Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Prof Asaduzzaman, M Hasanuzzaman, Nazrul Islam and ABM Mahmud were present in the 30-minute meeting of the policy-making body of the varsity. Meanwhile, barbed-wire fences put up by police at entry points to the university were removed today. But police-BDR patrols continued patrolling the campus.