

Reopening of DU is not 'in sight'

Varsity Correspondent

Shrugging off the growing demand for immediate reopening of Dhaka University, a powerful quarter in the upper echelon of the administration is reluctant to do so before settling a number of touchy issues, especially judicial probe body report.

Sources said the university's new administration, led by the acting Vice Chancellor, was "sincere enough" to resume academic activities "within the shortest possible time", an indication that Prof AFM Yusuf Haider clearly made after his takeover on July 23 (See Page 15 Col. 4)

DU
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As the Dhaka University's events in the last week of July "utterly perturbed" the government, it is in no way willing to see any incident that could invite further embarrassment.

A key figure in the administration is learnt to have suggested the university authorities to kill time until the Judicial Inquiry Commission submits its report. "The government is also cautious about possible turmoil over the observance of August 15 by the opposition," a source said.

But both the acting VC and the acting Proctor several times answered negative when asked about the matter.

"The university authorities are really and unconditionally willing to meet those demands including withdrawal of the cases filed against the students over the July 23 incident and its backlash. Only what it needs is a breathing time," a competent source said.

The authorities found five cases filed against the students and police lodged four of them. They have already talked with the Home Ministry about the process of the withdrawing the cases, the sources said.

On reopening the halls, a senior official said the hall provosts were apprehending violence. The formation of the central committee of the ruling party's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal is now pending and aspirants are active to secure their desired posts any how.

According to a provost, precedence has time and again shown that both Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League cadres locked in battles to capture and recapture the respective halls as their power-base before formation of the committee.

Keeping this in mind, the authorities are going to consult the student organisations. But the first meeting was postponed on the first day of the schedule on Monday as the leaders of left-leaning student bodies were "busy in their scheduled programmes".

The authorities will conclude the dialogue on August 21 after having discussion with the JCD leaders.

After the dialogues with student bodies, the authorities will sit with the Paribesh Parishad and following the meeting the university Syndicate will decide about reopening of the university.

The sudden closure apprehends the students of session jam. All the examinations have already postponed.