

Students enforced strike for DUCSU polls

DU Correspondent

A GROUP of Dhaka University students on Thursday enforced strike on the campus as the authorities did not respond to an ultimatum for the announcement of a date for elections to university central students' union.

The students, teamed up

Continued on page 2 Col. 2

Students enforced

Continued from page 1

as Shikhharti Adhikar Mancha, gathered in places and locked up buildings such as the arts faculty building, Curzon Hall and the Institute of Business Administration.

The university proctorial team broke open the gates to the buildings about 10:00am.

No classes were held. But examinations of international relations and Urdu and Persian were held, the controller of examinations, Bahalul Haque, told reporters. No university vehicle left the campus. Police deployment remained reinforced.

The protesters at a press conference after the strike on Thursday also announced that they would hold a solidarity rally on July 29 to push for elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union.

The platform's spokesman Nur Bahadur at the press conference at Madhu's Canteen said that they would hold the rally at Aparajeya Bangla involving former DUCSU leaders, teachers, students and employees.

He called on the authorities to announce by July 29 the date for the elections. 'We will, otherwise, go for a tougher movement to establish our rights.'

Addressing the rally,

The platform's coordinator Nure Alam Durjoy at a gathering during the strike said that their movement did not have any political objective; it was rather aimed at establishing their rights.

The vice-chancellor, AAMS Arefin Siddique, told New Age that the DUCSU elections would depend on the disposal of the writ petition pending with the High Court.

As for strike, Arefin doubted whether the protesters were students of the university and the protesters, when asked about the comment of the vice-chancellor, at a press briefing later produced their identity cards.

The students have for long been rallying under the banner of non-political platform for early DUCSU elections.

The Dhaka University Order 1973 stipulates that the syndicate should have five student representatives and the positions have been lying vacant for more than a decade in the absence of DUCSU.

The DUCSU elections were last held in 1989. The students' union was dissolved on May 28, 1998, eight years after it had served out its one-year tenure.