

DU elections uncertain

By MUSTAFA MOIN

Elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and the hall unions have become uncertain.

The prolonged violence on the university campus has compelled the Dhaka University authorities to back away from their earlier decision of holding the polls sometime in July. Two months back the Dhaka University Vice Chancellor told Holiday that an official announcement to this end would be made as soon as the classes resumed after the Eid and Ramzan vacation.

Immediately after the Eid and before the classes could fully resume two rival organizations clashed on the Dhaka University campus. During the clashes, both the sides resorted to the use of firearms including automatic weapons. There were also allegations that

some known professional criminals were being hired by the rival organization for the job.

The organizations involved in the clashes were the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) backed Bangladesh Students League.

The clashes, however, came to an apparent end with the intervention of the Dhaka University authorities and negotiations between the parties concerned.

The armistice, however, did not last long as on June 25 both the sides again engaged in a gun battle which was described as the worst inside the campus.

The Dhaka University Syndicate held a series of emergency meetings to discuss the situation and at one stage resolved to close

the university sine die. The vice chancellor, however, kept the syndicate decision in abeyance and said the university would be closed sine die if the situation further deteriorated.

Since then through a couple of days of uneasy calm the situation slightly improved. The university authorities are, however, still worried about any sudden outbreak of violence and though at one stage the authorities were interested about the DUCSU polls they now seem to have lost interest in holding the elections apprehending fresh violence on the campus.

The Dhaka University is going without an elected DUCSU since 1983.

A Dhaka University teacher holding a responsible position said that the university authorities have no plans to announce any date for the DUCSU election soon. In fact, the possibility of holding the DUCSU election this year seems to be remote, he added.