

Concern continues DU reopens

By Our Staff Correspondent

After a gap of 73 days Dhaka University reopened last Sunday amid a peace rally addressed and led by Vice Chancellor M.A. Mannan that turned somewhat sour.

Dhaka University was closed sine die on July 15 after a series of gunbattles on the campus in which two students and a rickshaw-puller were killed.

Following the closure of the university the authorities announced the formation of a committee to probe into the mid-July incidents and also decided not to resume classes until a congenial atmosphere could be ensured.

The committee submitted its report and on the basis of that report the Disciplinary Committee with the approval of the university Syndicate expelled 11 students, warned five others and suspended another for two years.

The expulsion measure was hailed by and large in the university excepting by the BNP-backed Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra Dal led five-party student alliance, Sangrami Chhatra Jote. Out of the 11 expelled students eight belonged to the JCD.

The gravity of Sunday's peace rally was largely blemished as a group of youths chanted slogans as the vice chancellor started his speech and isolated the VC from the mainstream of the procession chanting slogans against the expulsion order especially against Sanaul Haq, organizing secretary of the JCD.

To many observers

carry adequate significance. Though nothing untoward happened on the campus, many consider it as a sign of further tension and unrest there.

The Dhaka University authorities seem to be serious about its decision of expulsion order against 11 students and said they would strictly adhere to the Syndicate's decision.

Meanwhile, the JCD and the Sangrami Chhatra Jote continued their campaign against the expulsion order. The Dhaka University authorities, however, also warned that those who created problems during the holding of the peace rally and

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march of Sunday would be identified and punished. It is alleged that many of Sunday's trouble makers were outsiders.

Despite the authorities' tough stand, the JCD and its allies seem to be uncompromising about their stand. If the tough stand continues violence may again erupt on the campus despite the tight security measures taken by the authorities since the reopening of the halls on September 22.