

Syndicate deplores closure of DU

Varsity Correspondent

Dhaka University authorities on Sunday termed the government decision to close down the university till 14th of this month as 'unexpected' and violation of the 1973 Ordinance of autonomy.

The Dhaka University Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, in an emergency meeting observed that there was no logic behind the decision to close the university as, what it said, a peaceful situation was prevailing in the university. The Syndicate further observed that it was not possible for the students to vacate the residential halls at the moment because the communication between Dhaka and rest of the country has already been affected.

The Syndicate permitted all the residential students to stay in the halls and also assured them of security measures. In this connection the Syndicate requested the government to withdraw the decision and hand over the responsibility to the Vice-Chancellor and hall administrations. However, all classes and examinations of the university would remain suspended till 14th of this month, they said.

The Syndicate claimed that a peaceful and congenial academic atmosphere was prevailing in the university following the ouster of the outsiders from all halls. It said that at a time

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when the university authorities were in a process to eliminate session jam, the closure decision was 'unexpected'.

In the evening while talking to the journalists in Vice-Chancellor expressed his dissatisfaction over the decision to close the university. He said that in maintaining peace on campus police forces would be called. Meanwhile, a heavy contingent of police forces have been deployed at Fuller Road and different entry points of the university.

Dhaka University and its adjoining areas however remained tense from Saturday night. Students brought out series of processions to following the news of the closure of the university. At one stage the students became violent and damaged the gate-of the Vice-Chancellor's residence.

A joint meeting of the teachers, students and employees was held in front of the residence of the Vice-Chancellor Sunday morning which was addressed by Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Proctor, Prof. K.A.M. Saaduddin, President of the Teachers Association, student leaders, Sultan Mansoor Ahmed, Asaduzzaman Ripon, Mostaq Hossain, Nurul Fazal Bulbul and Mostafa Farook. Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury denounced the government decision and termed it as undemocratic. Prof. Saaduddin called upon the students and other concerned to maintain the autonomy of the university.

After the meeting a big procession of the students paraded the city streets. A truck belonging to Jatiya Party was ransacked by the students at Purana Paltan area.

A group of youngmen, exploded some cocktails near the Zia Hall of Dhaka University on Sunday noon. It is alleged that they belonged to the Government backed Jatiya Party.

After the Syndicate decision to keep the halls open, the situation in the university became apparently normal. However, some students have already vacated the halls out of fear.

Other closure order

BSS adds:—The Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka Medical College, Sir Salimullah Medical College and all other colleges in Dhaka will remain closed from today (Monday) till November 14, according to a government order.

Resident students in the halls and hostels of the universities and the colleges have instructed to vacate their rooms by 4 p.m. on Sunday last.