

Varsity classes held normally

Call to resist DU closure again

Varsity Correspondent

Prof. Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University has said that he was ready to shed his last drop of blood to resist any attempt to close down the university again. He held the higher authorities responsible for a series of uncheduled closures. The Vice-Chancellor cautioned that any conspiracy against the varsity from the vested quarters would not be tolerated.

Prof. Mannan was addressing a joint rally of teachers, students and employees at the foot of Aparajeya Bangla on Saturday, the day university reopened after long 50 days of uncheduled closure.

The Vice-Chancellor said that according to the 1973 Ordinance the Syndicate was the only authority to take decision about the university's internal atmosphere. He regretted that again and again the university

was closed by the vested groups violating the varsity autonomy. He said that the 1973 Ordinance was passed in the then national parliament and thus it was a holy document of the nation. He stressed that the ordinance could be changed in the Parliament by the people's representatives but it could not be violated.

Prof. Mannan stated that frequent and unexpected closures hampered normal academic activities in the university and created session jam which was robbing of three to four years extra times from a student's life.

Commenting on this issue the Vice-Chancellor said that the nation was going to lose a generation. "We cannot pass out students in time due to the closures though only ten per cent of the nation's students were fortunate to get themselves admitted in the

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Call to resist

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university, the Vice-Chancellor stated.

Prof. Mannan stated that the university was property of the nation and it had a long glorious tradition. He said it was run by the taxpayers' money and that's why any particular person or group had not the right to curb the national interest. The V-C said, "we cannot allow this precious institution to destroy itself and lives of those who are studying here."

Closure for 4 years, six months

He said, from 1980 to January 1988, a period of seven years six months and ten days, the Dhaka University remained closed for more than four years six months in all. He said the university was closed for a total of nine months by Government order and five months for strikes by the teachers and students at different times.

Prof. Mannan said that destroying the highest seats of learning meant to crippling the entire nation. Referring to menace of armed hoodlums on the campus last few days, the Vice-Chancellor cautioned that there was no room for terrorists in the Dhaka University campus and vowed to resist them any means.

The Vice-Chancellor reiterated that the principal of the Education Environment Council would be followed strictly to maintain congenial academic atmosphere in the university. He called upon all to resist any 'conspiracy' to close down the university and uphold the 1973 order. He said, the Syndicate was the only legitimate source of authority to look after the day to day administration and academic activities of the university

and no one else.

Prof. Abdul Mannan made a clarification call to the Government and leaders of the political parties to take actions against those responsible for campus violence. "We have submitted a list of armed vandals on the campus to the Government," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor demanded immediate release of the student detainees and said that those were arrested were the brilliant products of the university. To maintain a peaceful academic atmosphere in the university Prof. Mannan put forward a four-point proposal to smoothly run the university, suggesting not to close university by any order contrary to the university autonomy, to maintain a peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus, to resist violence by any means and remove session jam by taking extra classes.

Arranged by the Education Environment Council the rally was conducted by the Proctor of the University. It was attended by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, members of Senate, Syndicate, Deans, Provosts, Chairmen and Directors of different departments and institutes, officers employees.

On the first day of reopening the the university apparently wore a normal look. A number of classes were held peacefully and the presence of students was satisfactory. A number of processions were brought out by the various student organisations.

Twenty two student organisations in a joint statement congratulated the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University for his timely addresses. They expressed their full support towards the steps to be taken by the University authority for maintaining peace on the campus.