

৬/১০/২০০০

Classes to resume today JCD calls off nonstop strike in DU

Varsity Correspondent

In a dramatic development, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Friday unconditionally called off their nonstop student strike at Dhaka University, paving the way for immediate resumption of academic activities in the country's premier university.

The BNP-backed student organisation withdrew the three-month nonstop strike after getting stern directive from the high-ups of BNP on the previous day, insiders said. "We're not in a position to call off the strike but the BNP high command asked us to withdraw it, said a Vice-President of JCD seeking anonymity.

With the crisis on the campus now over, classes will resume today (Saturday). Examinations of different departments and institutes will be rescheduled soon, university authorities said.

To recover the losses already incurred by the strike, the university authorities would hold examinations on the weekly holidays (Fridays) in three shifts, a senior official of the examination controller's office said.

Examinations of more than 500 papers were postponed due to strike enforced since July 29. The university would suffer at least one-year session jam due to the strike, the authorities said.

"We call off the strike considering the sufferings and sentiment

of the students," JCD DU Unit President Monir Hossain said at an impromptu Press conference at Madhu's Canteen. "But our movement against the partisan Vice-Chancellor will continue until his resignation," he added.

The JCD leader said that they would provide security for those who left the university dorms after October 1 polls. "We believe in democracy and every student who supports any ideology has the right to live in the dorms," he said.

Talking on the incident of attacking the residences of some hall provosts, he said, "Those weren't done by Chhatra Dal supporters."

Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said "I'm happy, but not so happy because at least one year has elapsed from the life of my students," he said adding that "none won, none lost with the strike but the university suffered a lot."

Meanwhile, students at many dormitories alleged that many outsiders including some known terrorists of the city got into the dormitories under some JCD stalwarts' shelter.

"A known terror of Hajaribagh is moving through Muhsin Hall and at least 20 terrorists are staying in the hall," alleged a resident of Muhsin Hall.

See Page 15 Col 4

JCD calls

(From Page 1 Col 3)

A top leader of DU unit of JCD admitted the presence of the outsiders in some halls. "We're informed of it, and action will be taken immediately," he said.

Leaders and supporters of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) left dormitories on Monday night sensing an election debacle of AL.

After the departure of the BCL activists the JCD supporters returned to the university dormitories and captured those on early Tuesday knowing BNP's landslide victory in the Monday's parliamentary elections.

The DU halls were almost vacant as residential students went home ahead of the October 1 polls amidst the JCD-called indefinite strike.

Following Awami League's assumption of office in 1996, BCL captured all the 14 DU dorms and dominated till October 1 polls.