

Demand for VC's resignation dropped

DU authorities hold talks with JCD

Varsity Correspondent

The ongoing impasse at the Dhaka University is going to be resolved as the strike enforcer Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) sat with the authorities on Saturday to "apprise them of the party's specific demands".

The university authorities on Friday decided to negotiate with the student organisations to resolve the ongoing stalemate on the campus.

The authorities also sat with Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and JSD-backed BCL on Saturday to discuss the campus situation.

The JCD leaders are now sticking to only one demand and that is to go for further intensive search at five halls on the northern

side of the campus.

The leaders assured the committee formed to negotiate with the student organisations that they would suspend the ongoing strike if a massive search was conducted in the five halls -- Muhsin, Surya Sen, Jasimuddin, Bangabandhu and Zia -- and their activists were rehabilitated to the halls.

Responding to the demand the authorities told the JCD leaders that they would take action in this regard after talking to the Syndicate, Provost Standing Committee and other student organisations.

Coming to the negotiation table the JCD leaders submitted a list of their demands including resignation of the Vice Chancellor.

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DU authorities

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Sources said the leaders dropped their principal demand of the VC's resignation as the university authorities assured them to meet their other demands.

The other demands of the JCD are ousting the non-students from the halls, invoke the expulsion order on 67 BCL activists who were expelled on charge of terrorism, and withdrawal of partisan police officers from the campus.

After the two-hour long meeting the JCD leaders said no dialogue was held and they only apprised the authorities about their stand. The strike would continue and dialogues may continue provided demands were met.

When asked what they did in the two hours, the JCD Organising Secretary ABM Mosharraf Hossain said that they only talked elaborately about their demands.

The five member JCD delegation led by its President Nasiruddin Pintu came to the administrative building at about 1:30 p.m.

The eight member syndicate committee discussed with them with VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The JCD imposed the nonstop shutdown on the campus since July 29 demanding resignation of the DU Vice Chancellor, recovery of illegal arms, arrest of terrorists and reinstatement of the JCD activists to the dormitories.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also met with the committee. The leaders gave their total support to any initiative of the authorities to resolve the crisis, the authorities said. BCL President Bahadur Bepari led the BCL delegation.

Responding to the authorities' request, the BCL did not resist the strike on Saturday. The BCL on Wednesday warned that they would resist the strike on Saturday if it was not withdrawn.

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) did not join the negotiation.

BCL and JCD and GCO separately demonstrated on the campus on the 7th day of the strike enforced by JCD.

The GCO leaders from their rally condemned JCD and BCL for occupying the halls. They will submit their demands to the university Syndicate on Monday after a teacher-student-guardian rally on the campus.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has called a general meeting on Saturday evening to discuss about the campus situation.