

8/20/2000

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## Students, teachers apprehend Deadlock in DU may continue

Varsity Correspondent

In the backdrop of the change in the country's political scenario, common students and teachers apprehend that the deadlock in the Dhaka University would be protracted due to the "negative politics" being practiced by the student organisations.

The university has been gripped by an "unscheduled vacation" since July 29 as BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a nonstop student strike demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

The "ousted" JCD activists returned to the university dormitories and captured those on early Tuesday following BNP's landslide victory in Monday's parliamentary elections.

On the other hand, leaders and supporters of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) left the dormitories on Monday night sensing an election debacle of its parent organisation AL.

Under the circumstances, VC Azad

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### DU deadlock

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Chowdhury said "There is win or loss in politics, but it shouldn't be reflected in the academic arena".

Asked about possible change in the highest chair of the university, Azad Chowdhury said, "With the change in the national politics, there will be changes elsewhere - this concept is not desirable."

He refused to make any further comment, saying, "I'm watching the situation. I'm not selected, rather I'm elected by the Senate not for once, but for twice."

Meanwhile, BCL leaders alleged that following threats from JCD, they had to leave the DU dormitories, excepting Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall.

"They asked us to leave the hall within today (Wednesday). We're ready to face any situation," said a hall unit BCL leader.

BCL President Bahadur Bepari and General Secretary Ajay Kar Khokan in a joint statement on Wednesday they vowed to resist the "tokais and known terrorists". They also urged the authorities to restore congenial atmosphere in the DU dorms.

The Provost Standing Committee (PSC) of the university at a meeting on Wednesday expressed concern over the incidents of occupying some residential halls of the university by the "outsiders".

The meeting was told that the occupiers removed the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from a hall's guestroom and threatened the officials and employees of the halls.

The PSC urged all concerned to maintain congenial academic atmosphere on the campus and uphold the image of the university, irrespective of the polls-results or developments in the national politics.

It also requested the liaison committee, formed by the Syndicate for negotiating with the striking student organisations, to continue the negotiation process.

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.