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ROW OVER DU VC PANEL ELECTION

Inactive DUCSU leads to muscle flexing: student leaders

Arifur Rahman

FLEXING political muscle, instead of intellectual exercise, is the outcome of the inactivity of Dhaka University Central Students' Union for more than two decades, left student leaders find.

The recent confrontation between students and teachers goes a long way towards exemplifying where an authoritarian attitude, owing much to the absence of the central student body, can lead to, they say.

The university senate, they argue, has not also been effective due to absence of student representatives, which also has resulted in the dominance of the teachers and administrators in the policymaking process and overshadowed student's logical demand.

Earlier on Saturday, a group of Dhaka University

teachers scuffled with agitating students who were chanting slogans demanding election to Dhaka University Central Students Union outside Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban during election of VC panel.

The scuffle took place when students, led by some left leaning student leaders, tried to enter into the vice-chancellor office premises, protesting against the poll without holding the DUCSU poll.

Eight including two teacher were injured in the incident.

Talking to New Age, Umme Habiba Benojir, DU chapter president of Chhatra Federation, said as per the Dhaka University Order 1973 there should have been elected student representatives in the senate but there

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Inactive DUCSU

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was none for last twenty-seven years as no student union poll was held during the period.

'Our demand was logical but some teachers shamelessly attacked the demonstrators without any provocation,' she added.

Chhatra Union central general secretary Liton Nondi said that the university's administration and teachers became more autocratic day by day as there was no student representative in the senate to voice their demands.

Denouncing the attack on students, Liton said the dying DUCSU deprived them of their rights as dysfunctional student body led to

unhealthy exercise on the campus.

Demanding immediate election to the university's central students union, Salman Siddique, general secretary of Socialist Students Front, said that without the student union poll it was impossible to ensure democratic environment on the campus.

He also alleged that 15-20 teachers, led by acting proctor Professor AM Amzad Ali, attacked them, hurled abusive words and snatched placards from them forcing them to engage in a scuffle with the teachers.

Denying the allegation, the acting proctor claimed, 'We tried to persuade them but they would not listen to

us, rather they assaulted the teachers'.

Earlier on Saturday, a special session of Dhaka University senate nominated incumbent VC AAMS Professor Arefin Siddique, treasurer Professor Md Kamal Uddin and ruling Awami League-backed blue panel convener Professor Abdul Aziz for the VC panel.

The senate by law must also include 25 graduates and five students from DUCSU, as well as 20 representatives from various affiliated colleges and research bodies but these posts in the senate are currently vacant.

Of the 105 senators, only 48 were present when the panel was nominated.

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