

Unfortunate Developments In City Schools

The career of some 10,000 students has been pushed to uncertainty by turmoil in a few educational institutions in the city. The trouble started first in the Ideal School and College. The principal of the institution in a statement on November 29 declared that the situation in the institution had turned anarchic and that it had become impossible for him to run academic activities. A prolonged legal battle between the principal and the governing body preceded. The Guardians' Forum of the institution then became active.

The High Court issued a rule on December 3 against termination of services of the incumbent principal of the institution. The rule was, among others, on the Ministry of Education, Dhaka Education Board and Chairman of the Governing Body of the institution. Incidentally Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP is the chairman of the governing body. Finally the institution reopened on Tuesday (December 9) last. But the musclemen reportedly beat up the guardians who had accompanied their wards and others and it all ended in a fiasco.

The T & T School and College has since plunged into a worse state. The principal of the college has been assaulted on the campus. He had to be hospitalised. The Headmaster of the school and six teachers of the college including the vice-principal have been arrested for alleged involvement in the incident. They were, however, granted bail on Monday (December 8) by the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Court.

The general impression is that these exercises are politically motivated and aimed at gaining control of the institutions like occupation of the university halls. And they must gain control no matter the damage done to the institution concerned in the process. But a contemporary has given another picture, particularly of the T&T School and College that the bone of contention between the school and the college is property. The ministers for Telecommunication, Home and Education have tried for peace between the parties from time to time which has been elusive yet.

The contemporary also mentions that a teacher committed a mistake relating to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a question paper of the Second Terminal Examination of Class V this year. The opponents made capital of it and on receipt of complaint, the education board stopped all grants and cancelled recognition of the school.

We would suggest a thorough investigation of the title to land on which the private institutions in the capital have been built to set such controversies at rest. But the account of the events has stunned us and we can think of nothing but keeping our fingers crossed.