

The State Of Education

Sir,

I read with great interest your editorial under the above caption which appeared in your esteemed paper on May 08, 1996. You have rightly identified the current political trends and directions as the cause of the persistence of session jam in the universities. As you have said, it is this which arouses our 'deepest concern.' In the past also politics made the educational arena so messy as to cast a long shadow over the whole area of education. National politics has 'baneful' effects on education and hence on the future of the country.

The countrymen are anxious about the future of education and hence of the country with a 'multiplicity of factors', consistently ailing our higher education. In your words, higher education in the country is 'hostage' to the 'failure of university administration in many instances.'

It is the 'national desire' that serious attention be paid to all these problems and education be rescued from the clutches of politics. Yes, politics and holding of political opinions is the right of all citizens but the way it is practised and is made to be practised in the educational arena has 'marred' the essence of education and is simply despicable and is to be shunned and abhorred.

As you have said, the standard of higher education has suffered a serious setback. We do not have any reason to feel complacency viewing the great number of students stepping out of the universities in view of the fact that 'over the past two decades, and more' there has been a 'clear' decline in the standard of academic achievement in the country coupled with a 'drastic' fall in the quality of teaching.

As to student politics, a referendum could not be arranged at

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology last year to seek the opinion of the students as to whether politics should continue or not on the campus. Local political leaders were approached for cooperation only to be decline. The conscious students of the university would like to ask the university administration to rearrange the referendum under the present neutral caretaker government and also to ponder seriously as to how the session jam likely to be in our way can be averted and thereby save the newborn university from the said curse. In 1996 the newly enrolled students attended only a week's classes already five months lost to them while the classes of other students have not yet started.

As something of a positive kind, we welcome the meeting of the honourable Chancellor of the universities with the Vice-Chancellors of different universities as reported in your paper the same day as news item captioned, 'VC's urged to keep peace on campus.' The Chancellor deserves praise as we hear him emphasising the importance of pragmatic steps and proper planning by the Vice-Chancellors for removing the session jams "In the interest of the students and the country as a whole" and that the government will help cooperate in making the universities "free from violence and terrorism that hinder the peaceful academic atmosphere." We must rear our young in an atmosphere conducive to their intellectual pursuits which in 'ultimate analysis' will endow the nation with political dynamism.

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