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Politicians' attitude blamed for anarchy on campuses

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Venting anguishes over the prevailing situation in the universities, academics, and veteran citizens on Sunday blamed the politicians' attitude to dominate the educational institutions resulted the existing anarchy on the campuses.

Unwanted intrusion of politicians in the academic sectors deteriorated the quality and standard of education in the country and destroyed generations of promising youths, they lamented.

The participants at the discussion meeting on Education Environment suggested severing the relations among political parties and student bodies for restoring congenial academic atmosphere.

Teachers of Dhaka University vehemently urged both the ruling and opposition political parties to refrain from poking in the internal affairs of the universities.

Slating some teachers' and student leaders' trend of adhere to the power and wealth, young DU teachers said unhealthy competition of politicising the academic arena between both ruling and oppositions parties reached campus to such a volatile situation.

The practice of changing the university administrations with any changes in the government derailed some teachers and students from their responsibilities, they said.

The discussants blamed the university authorities' failure to for the recent happenings in Dhaka University and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

They saluted the protesters of the Shamsunnahar Hall incidents and Sony killing in BUET and opined that the latest movement should be the model of student politics.

Presided over by Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Mosharraf Hossain, Dr Kamal Hossain, Ahmedul Kabir, Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Ataus Samad, Fayez Ahmed, Architect Bashirul Huq, Advocate Sultana Kamal, Tasneem Siraj Mahbub and Zahid Hasan Chowdhury. Concerned Citizens organised the discussions at the auditorium of the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB).

Most of the discussants said student politics and terrorism are not the same. Interestingly, political parties raise their voice against student politics when they were in power, they added.

Prof Anisuzzaman said many people blames the university ordinances 1973 made the scope misusing the autonomy but the ordinance was not practiced widely. He cited that after implementation of the ordinance, only two vice chancellors of Dhaka University assumed to office after being elected. Others were firstly appointed by the government then got elected.

Referring to the Judicial Inquiry Commission formed to investigate into the Shamsunnahar Hall incidents, he demanded to publish the report publicly.

Dr Kamal Hossain said national consensus is needed to change the existing unwanted situation on the campuses. Terming the existing student politics as ill-politics, he said it could be existed for the ill-motivated politicians for their desire of realising vested interest.

Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed said the education sector became deteriorated after the politicians grabbed it ousting the teachers. In all colleges, a local legislator heads the governing body and in most cases he is a criminal. So the situation goes to in favour of terrorists, he added.

Ataus Samad said the political quarrel among the teachers lead the tragic incidents of Shamsunnahar Hall. He criticised the BUET teachers those feel proud of their discipline for patronising terrorists in dormitories over years. "They expelled the students who protested a killing. It's nothing but a bloody joke," he said and questioned "Where was the discipline when the killers lock in gunfight over grabbing tenders?"