

Session jam in DU cut substantially

Dhaka University has started to come out of the grip of the long-standing sessions jam. The jam, one of the main problems of the university, has been eased substantially. For the last two decades there had been a backlog of three academic sessions. So four-year honours and Masters courses took seven to eight years, says Media Syndicate on Saturday.

After the publication of the academic calendar from the last (1992-93) academic year the sessions jam began to unravel. A year has been shorn off the jam in the last two years. The academic calendar of 1992-93 contained various matters relating to educational programmes. Most classes and examinations were held on schedule. Some examinations were rescheduled as Dhaka

University Central Students Union (DUCSU) elections were to be held. The results of these rescheduled exams were published quickly to keep the academic calendar on track, said Pro Vice-Chancellor Dr. Wakil Ahmed who heads the committee that draws up the academic

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calendar. In the 1992-93 academic calendar first year honours and first year Masters were included. In the recently published 1993-94 academic calendar first year, second year honours and first part and second part have been included. In the next academic calendar all years will be covered.

Students clashes that ensued immediately after the Liberation War hampered academic activities and the sessions jam started. The university was closed since the following clashes over hijacking of ballot boxes during 1973 DUCSU elections. The university was again closed for an indefinite period after the seven murders at Mohsin Hall in 1974.

There was an attempt to remove it with the admission of two sessions in 1977. The progress achieved could not be sustained because of increasing

student clashes. The tightest knots of the sessions jam were knit during the autocratic regime of Ershad. Immediately after usurping power Ershad closed the university for an indefinite period. The students of the university launched vigorous movement against the regime and as a result clashes often occurred. The university used to remain closed month after month as different groups of students clashed. The university was closed for one thousand days more than scheduled during the Ershad regime.

Because of the closures of the university for indefinite periods a kind of stagnation descended upon the teachers, says a senior teacher, as academic activities gathered momentum the lethargy among teachers slipped away. Earlier, examination of scripts of students took seven to ten months and so publication of results sometimes took even a year. But that situation has changed now, he said. Now teachers examine the scripts in two or three months. So results are published quickly and classes started, he said.

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