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Readers' Forum

Educational matters

Personally I feel it necessary to state a few words about Bangladesh Agricultural College, or BAI's eviction matter which has created some confusion. The recent press conference, jointly organized by teachers, students and staff of BAI called upon the Government to stop unscheduled demolition of BAI's staff quarters, farm workers' kuchcha houses and horticultural garden, all of which are situated inside the college campus. The BAI authorities, as per government directives, have already vacated their land and buildings that are required for the new secretariat building. At present, the government has no plan to demolish the present structure of BAI. The Government has, however, issued a directive to clean up 'Bastis' situated in the college area. It may be mentioned here that since long the college authority has been trying hard to evict all unauthorized inmates from the BAI campus. And it has achieved considerable success in its eviction drive. Now, only farm workers and some staff of BAI are living in kuchcha houses as there is no labour shed or enough staff quarters inside the BAI campus. The BAI administration is firm to establish a clean and healthy atmosphere inside the campus.

Perhaps it wouldn't be out of place to mention that this college was established by Sher-e-Bangla A.K. Fazlul Haq in 1938 as a result of his active and strong initiative. The college is still standing on the foundation stone laid by the great leader who worked hard to set up the only agricultural education institution in this part of Bengal, and of course in Dhaka. He thought that if the college were established in Dhaka, students from all parts of the then East Bengal would get access to agricultural education which was so essential for the betterment of our agricultural community.

There is no doubt that the Government of Bangladesh is quite aware of the importance of an agricultural college in the capital of this agricultural country. The present government has passed a number of development schemes of BAI and even a new students hall has been constructed under the personal directive of President Ershad.

I sincerely hope that the Government will help us to turn BAI into an ideal educational institution of the country.

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