

Sir,

The Bangladesh Observer in its editorial dated 4.10.1989 has put forward a valuable suggestion for keeping peace in the Campuses in general and the University of Dhaka in particular. The editorial was written in the context of recovery of arms on 20.9.1989 by police and B.D.R. in their raid in six residential halls of Dhaka University. Since the editorial on the subject on 4.10.1989 more arms have been recovered from the campuses of Dhaka and Rajshahi University. On the night following Thursday, 5th October, 1989 and on Friday night from a college at Chittagong.

One cannot be sure if the possession of arms by some students is connected with leadership in the Campus, as the student leaders themselves are denouncing such possession of arms. The cause of such possession of arms and its source is to be searched outside the Campuses. The students arrested in connection with the recovery of arms, are reported to be followers of some political parties. In order to maintain peace and the academic atmosphere in the Universities the political parties should come forward to dissolve their student fronts, and not to encourage student politics. President Ershad has taken a commendable step in dissolving the student front of his political party.

But the matter does not end there. For the University as you have said is "more than a simple law and order problem." The University Authority is under obligation to maintain discipline in the Campus and to ensure safe pursuit of studies by the students. The University authority has got adequate powers to deal with cases of indiscipline amongst the students. In this juncture the guardians and the innocent students should stand by the University authority for its firm handling of the situation in the greater interest of the students.

The leaders of various student factions may deliver the desired remedy by agreeing to sit down and talk together, but the task is almost impossible without affectionate aid and assistance of University authority.

The fact remains that the students are also political animals, as we all are. The students are also conscious of the national issues, and more responsive to any call for solution of the national issues. It may not bear any fruit to tell the students not to indulge in politics inside the Campus. The nation also expects the students to take the leadership of the country in future. So, some training in leadership is called for and it is provided by the different unions of the students. But to complete the picture the desired training in parliamentary practice may also be provided by establishing a students parliament comprising the representatives of the students of the seven Universities of the country. This question and the related matters may be examined by a Commission to be headed by a Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The members of the Commission may be taken from the seven Universities, Education Ministry and Supreme Court Bar Association.

Md. Moksudor Rahman.

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