

ADHERE TO ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The progress in the educational sphere of the country in recent years has indeed been revolutionary. This is reflected not only in the number of the educational institutions from primary to the highest levels and enrolment in those institutions but also in the teaching and examination methods, curricula and text books. Besides new institutions in the public sector including the national university for conducting examinations at graduate and master levels and open university running both conventional and innovating courses, there have been universities and colleges of higher learning in both public and private sectors.

All the same education has been under strain and tension prevails in most of the higher institutions resulting in frequent unscheduled closures. The campuses are characterised these days by terror and violence—show very different from the old days when these were virtual sanctuaries. The people then counted the senior students among the elites and looked upon them for guidance on both social and political issues.

The deterioration in the campus atmosphere and law and order in general has claimed many a valuable lives of both students and teachers. Late Nuban Ahmed is the latest victim. A promising and amiable teacher of the Economics Department of the Dhaka University, Nuban succumbed on December 26 to injuries inflicted by unidentified hoodlums ten days ago. The death of the young teacher has been condoled by both the ruling party and opposition leaders "as a great loss to the university and the country." While grieving the death and joining in prayer for the salvation of the departed soul, we lend whole-hearted support to the demand for exemplary punishment to the killers.

The circumstances of Nuban's death are most tragic. It has shocked the people to the core. The expressions of the deepest public indignation and

clamour for investigation and trial are but natural. The law enforcing agencies have to take the issue with utmost seriousness. But the saddest part is that such crimes have in the past often been politically induced. There is no apparent reason though to presume any political motive in the instance case. But cooperation of the political parties is essential for restoring academic atmosphere in the campus and improving law and order situation in the country.

We should not be oblivious of the fact that the prevailing session jam in the academic institutions in the country is one of the reasons for frustration among a section of the youth contributing substantially to the spurt in crime and violence. And session jam is mostly due to failure to hold examination in time. The reasons why examinations are not held on schedule are many. Some of those are undoubtedly academic and are dictated by circumstances obtaining on the campus.

There should be proper appraisal of the socio-economic impact of undue delay in holding examinations. Besides the economic burden on the parents and guardians it creates a sense of discouragement and dissatisfaction among the students. It is no surprise that those who can afford try to avoid the pitfalls by sending their wards abroad. There is thus hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshi students abroad including the neighbouring country. In the process both money and brain are drained out which this poor country can ill afford.

The political parties in the country seem unaware of the damage being done to the present and future generations. What is worse the parties also at times create circumstances for delaying examinations. Indeed the university authorities are very often left with no alternative but to postpone examinations because of political moves of the parties. The strike call, more often repeated these days, is one of them. The nation's progress largely hinges on reversing the trend.