

## The call of the teachers

The teachers of Dhaka University have made it plain that they will not take any classes until terrorist activities come to a halt on the campus. As it is, there can be nothing wrong with as honest a resolve as that. However, it would have been all very nice if the move by the teachers could solve, at least partially, the problems now facing the university, which are of a far more complicated nature than a cursory glance would reveal.

So, to place the teachers' action in the right perspective we have to look into the matter once more. The teachers, by demanding an end to terrorism, have in fact tried to prove that they are by no means involved in the goings-on. Well, even if that be true, it seems a bit injudicious to throw the onus of cleaning up the very ground where the teachers themselves live, on the government alone. After all, recent developments in the academic arena do not point to the teachers being absolutely above suspicion. Chittagong University is, of course, a clear case in point. The idea behind the boycott plan is to put pressure on the administration. Here too the teachers must have forgotten that the inmates cannot afford to watch from a distance when dacoits raid the house.

What our revered academicians should bear in mind is that issuing statements is one thing, and bringing back a congenial atmosphere on the campus quite another. They have to play a much more assertive, and more importantly, direct role in resolving the present crisis. The government, for its part, should realise that only out of sheer desperation could the teachers of a university go on an indefinite strike like that. It is time to respond to the call of the teachers, and indeed the whole nation.

113