



# DU Day celebrated Concern over campus unrest

Staff Correspondent

"Dhaka University Day-89" was celebrated on Friday amid gaiety. Thousands of students, former students, teachers, guardians, employees and officers of the University enjoyed the day with enthusiasm.

The day's programme began in the morning with a combined parade by the BNCC, Rangers and Rover Scouts of the University at the green sprawling lawn in between the Administrative building and Arts Faculty.

National Prof. Dr. Nurul Islam was the chief guest while Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Mannan, in the chair. The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Mr. Sultan Mohammad Mansoor Ahmed and Mr. Mostaq Hossain, the Vice-President and General Secretary respectively of DUCSU.

However, the inaugural function was disturbed by some unruly students as they waved black flags to the Vice-Chancellor to mark their protest against him. At one stage, a section of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) chanted slogans "Rajaker" aiming at the Vice-Chancellor and threw a black flag on the stage where the invited guests and speakers were sitting. The Vice-Chancellor during his speech warned that the students responsible for this inconvenience would be punished. He asked the video men to snap those who showed black flags.

Dr. Nurul Islam stressed that the University would have to take greater responsibility in building our society and expanding its activities up to the rural educational institutions of the country.

Dr. Nurul Islam observed that the budget in the education sector was being reduced and the teachers were not given their proper place. He held both the University and the Government responsible for this. He expressed his grave concern over the prevailing unrest in the educational institutions.

Supporting the participation of students in politics he said that the students should involve themselves in the creative politics. He said, "I don't believe in the politics of destruction". Recalling the glorious history of Dhaka University, Dr. Islam said that in all the patriotic movement including Language Movement of 1952, Libera-

tion War in 1971 this university played the pioneering role.

Dr. Nurul Islam emphasised on the need for making every citizen worthy son of the soil.

In his presidential address, the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Abdul Mannan, said that Dhaka University was contributing to the nation's higher education for more than half a century.

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He regretted that the vested quarters always tried to tarnish the image of this pride institution. But he said, the combined efforts of the students, teachers and employees made it possible to keep the campus free from terrorism.

Pointing to the total education system of the country, the Vice-Chancellor said that the educational institutions were gripped by a fearful virus. In this connection he cited the example of mass copying in the SSC examinations and termed it as "copying virus." He called upon all concerned to build a united resistance against adoption of unfair means in the examinations.

Prof. Mannan said that in the last two years the authorities strictly followed the regulations of the University and kept the campus free from hooliganism. Expressing conviction, he said that the members of Dhaka University would maintain congenial atmosphere at all cost. He said that the University authority was trying its best with the help of the teachers and students to remove the problem of session jam.

Commenting on the recently held DUCSU polls, the Vice-Chancellor said that democracy was restored to the campus through the DUCSU polls. He said the students of Dhaka University has shown an unique example of democratic tolerance. However, he expressed his sorrow over the post-election violence and termed it a conspiracy to tarnish the image of the University.

The Vice-Chancellor called upon all patriotic and conscious people and political parties to co-operate with the Varsity authorities for maintaining peace on the campus.

DUCSU, VP Sultan Mohammad Mansoor Ahmed said that united efforts of the students, teachers and employees were needed to maintain a peaceful academic environment. He lamented that after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975, the autonomy of the University had been violated. He said that a particular terrorist group was active in the University to disturb the educational atmosphere on the campus with the help of what he called the autocratic government. He demanded implementation of recommendations of Education Environment Council, in full.

Mr. Mostaq Hossain, General Secretary of DUCSU, emphasised on the need for autonomy of the University and said that it could be implemented only through establishing a democratic government in the country.

The day's programme also included holding of open air drama, recitation of poems, cultural function, exhibition of handicrafts, arts, painting, books, rare manuscripts, scientific instruments and sports equipment. Dhaka University journalist association held a display of reports and photos. Football and cricket matches were played marking the day.

On the occasion, all departments, institutes, halls, libraries, laboratories, cafeteria and book centres remained open to the visitors.