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## Reintroduction of Quranic verse in DU monogram demanded

Deletion of the verse from the Holy Quran from the monogram of Dhaka University during the '72 regime is again in the news. Senate member Dr. Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury raised the proposal demanding reintroduction of Quranic verse "Rabbi Zidni Elma" (Read in the name of Allah) in the DU monogram at the last meeting of the Senate, according to Media Syndicate.

But President of the DU Senate Vice Chancellor Prof. Ema-juddin Ahmed did not allow discussion on the proposal. He requested the members of the Senate to approve all the other proposals excluding the one concerning monogram. So the monogram issue has not been resolved. Rather Dr. Kamrul had to face the wrath of a section of students and people without moral scruples for raising the proposal in the Senate. His office was attacked too.

If one traces the background of the change of DU monogram it is seen that during the time of Awami League government after the War of Liberation the monogram was changed at personal whims-a lamp and words "Education is light" replaced the Quranic verse. The word 'Muslim' was also erased from the names of Salimullah Muslim Hall and Fazlul Haq Mus-

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## DU monogram

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lim Hall at the same time.

The mentality of the Calcutta-based ruling class and the Calcutta University-dominated commission was reflected in the designing of the monogram during the setting up of the Dhaka University in 1921. Swastika sign was inserted in the monogram. The hopes and aspirations of the people of this region was reflected in the designing of the DU monogram in 1952 which continued for 20 years. But sadly the verse of Holy Quran was not included when the monogram was changed.

Some senior teachers and officials of the university who wished to remain anonymous said, it was necessary then to delete the flag of Pakistan from the monogram. But when asked why the Verse of Holy Quran was dropped, they said that none dared to protest because of the prevailing situation. The government following 1975 changeover was unable to do anything as the Dhaka University order of 1973 had made the university supreme to take decisions on their own matters.

Dr. Kamrul Ahsan Chowdhury who raised the proposal on the monogram in the last Senate session, said he will raise his proposal in the Senate again. Dhaka University was set up keeping the interest of the Muslims of this region in mind. So verse of the Holy Quran, the sacred book of the majority of the people of the country needs to be in the monogram, he added, as our religion Islam and our holy book the Holy Quran was never against the spirit of the War of Liberation.