

editorial
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FOUNDER EDITOR
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Education and not politics

No to teacher and student politics on the campus

THE deliberations on whether partisan politics should be allowed on the campuses of educational institutions have touched upon a subject of immense national importance. It was a timely initiative of Nagorik Sanghati taken on Saturday at the National Press Club. We cannot but agree with the speakers when they said that students and teachers should not delve into partisan politics. We at the same time feel that more such discussions should be held by those who feel equally concerned about the detrimental effects of partisan politics on our campuses.

There is no denying that politics of the kind that we have witnessed over and over again on the campuses of the country was anything but 'hooliganism' of the worst possible depiction. It overpowered all semblance of civility, decency and rationale and entangled students and teachers with the mainstream political parties and their narrow partisan and often corrupt agenda. As a consequence, the academic environment of the institutions was severely blemished and education suffered a mortal blow. In fact, education became the secondary issue in many of these institutions while partisan politics became the number one pursuit.

When we recall the glorious chapters in our national history, we find the involvement of both students and teachers in every movement to right the wrongs and to establish the basic rights of the people. Nowhere have students and teachers sacrificed their lives for their country in such large numbers as they did in this country. But those illustrious people never for a moment thought about their narrow partisan interests or gain.

Our position on the question of partisan politics on the campuses has been very clear from the very outset. We feel every student and teacher has the basic right to take part in politics in the national context. But we are totally against giving space to partisan politics in educational institutions either by students or teachers. Students on the campuses should get involved in student welfare activities and they should not go beyond this parameter. Teachers should also refrain from creating division in the name of doing politics at the behest of the political parties they support. Their job is to teach and they should remain focused on this noble task. If they want to do politics they should join political parties and involve themselves outside the university premises. We believe there is a national consensus on this vital issue. If they want to do politics they should join political parties and involve themselves outside the University premises.