

B. Z. M.
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Most DU students back curbs on campus politics

The mood of general students at the Dhaka University these days suggests that most of them have welcomed the government measures curbing politics at educational institutions, reports BD News.

Some say they hope politics at school will be banned permanently.

Although this is not the first time students' political activities have been declared a taboo, the mood is surprising on a campus considered the cradle of all great movements in this part of the world including the country's independence movement.

The students' euphoria may have been generated by the semblance of stability and congenial academic atmosphere, often mired by parochialism, irrationality and violence for long, a student leader said.

Political activities on university campuses are notorious for causing disruptions in academic life, shutting down classes and delaying exams.

Clashes over the 'occupation' of dormitories - a euphemism for forcible 'rent' collection to rear up rackets run by political parties' student wings, interference in the administration of academic institutions and other criminal activities by student groups are common at many universities.

Some students, however, want student politics to be allowed on campus but with restrictions so that academic life is not disturbed.

Students who belong the student fronts of different political parties saw the rules as an infringement upon the fundamental rights of students in a democratic state.

Tarek Hossain, a fourth year student of Accounting and Information Systems Department, said he never supported politics by students on campus.

A sophomore Ehsan and a masters' student Bclal Ahmed echoed Tarek's sentiments.

They said the ban on campus politics would remove many problems for students and en-

courage them to concentrate on study.

Students are extremely frustrated by the chronic session jams, the lack of security on campus and student leaders' manipulation of the job market, Tarek added.

Most DU students contacted by bdnews24.com agreed that politics on campus was rarely a good thing. But the contrary opinion is also no less heavy.

A fourth year Mass Communication and Journalism student Tarique Habib opposed the ban on student politics.

"Student politics must exist for building future leadership. But the system ought to be changed."

Tarique, however, categorically opposed university teachers' getting involved in party politics on campus. "Teachers shouldn't be in politics. Teachers should be teaching students," he said.

Leaders of the key student political organisations commented cautiously on the State of Emergency.