

Report

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DU students say goodbye to unhealthy politics on campus

The students of Dhaka University (DU) appreciate the situation now prevailing on the campus as it is free from students politics that often perpetrates vengeance and violence causing even death of young lives, reports BSS.

"Student politics on the DU campus is no more a blessing for the nation, rather it is now one of the main causes of gradual deterioration in the standard of education in the country's largest seat of learning," said Saidur Rahman, a student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department of Dhaka University.

Another DU student of the Political Science Department, Shamim Asghar said student politics in Dhaka University brought a great deal of welfare for the whole nation. But, he lamented, that healthy politics prevails no more now.

Talking to BSS in Dhaka on Sunday, both of them expressed their firm confidence that the prevailing peaceful situation on the DU campus would continue in future to the greater benefit of all students.

Once highly acclaimed world over as 'Oxford of the East' for its outstanding contribution in quality education through peaceful academic atmosphere, many students said Dhaka University almost lost its good image of yesteryears only because of unhealthy student politics over the last two

decades.

Proctor office sources said DU faced 785 days' unscheduled closure during the last 17 academic sessions due mainly to unhealthy student politics. Country's largest university lost 94 academic days in 1991-92, the highest so far, while the lowest was 10 days in 1992-93.

According to the sources, DU lost 51 days in 1990-91, 94 days in

1991-92, 10 days in 1992-93, 22 days in 1993-94, 42 days in 1994-95, 55 days in 1995-96, 23 days in 1996-97, 18 days in 1997-98, 56 days in 1998-99, 23 days in 1999-2000, 22 days in 2000-01, 69 days in 2001-02, 72 days in 2002-03, 19 days in 2003-04, 74 days in 2004-05, 20 days in 2005-06 and 65 days in 2006-07 academic sessions.

During the 2006-07 academic session, DU was closed for 53 days from November 20, 2006 to January 11, 2007 out of the total 65 days due to student politics. There was, however, no such closure after the present caretaker government came to power on January 11 last.

According to published reports, a total of 71 students died on the DU campus due to student politics since 1972. "DU students played their pioneering roles on the campus from the great language movement to the War of Liberation also in all subsequent democratic movements," said Nasim Ahmed, a student of DU.

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DU students

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English Department.

Heaving a deep sigh, he said student politics later took a different course to become polluted under the influence of main political parties. "Unhealthy student politics has been pushing the students to an uncertain future day after day," he also said.

Until recently before January 11, student strike, forcing general students to participate in processions during class hours, taking food at free of cost in dormitories' canteen, harbouring outsiders in residential halls by driving out real students, use of muscle to make money through grabbing tenders and fake admission, clashes between rival students and intra-party conflicts were almost a regular feature on the DU campus.

At the moment, a complete peaceful atmosphere exists on the DU campus as all political activities are totally absent, giving an all-out relief to the students to pursue their education only.

Shaila Shabnam Tuli of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism said all students were scared when the processionists used to parade the inner routes of the campus. "In fact, we were in great fear of any bloody clash between the rival groups," she said.

Sabrina Akhter of the Department of History said the female students were always in a state of panic due to use of lethal weapons and bombs during the bloody clashes between the rival groups on the campus.

Mansur Alam, a student of the Department of Management Studies, proudly said, "we are now absolutely free from the curse of unhealthy student politics."