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## DU faces stiff challenge to construct new building

Varsity Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities and the Students' Unity Against Unplanned Construction (SUAUC) went in a confrontation over felling of trees and construction of a new buildings in front of the university's Central Library.

Controversies arose on the campus over the construction of the Bangladesh-Iran Centre for Persian Studies at the place between the Central Library and the DUCSU Building. Both the sides took a tougher stand after the decision.

Some students of the university under the banner of SUAUC launched a signature campaigns, staged demonstrations and submitted several memoranda to the authorities against destruction of trees and construction of a building at the tiny space.

On the contrary, the university authorities say the site is suitable for construction of the centre, which will involve about Taka five crore. The amount will come from Iranian government as grant.

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani laid the foundation stone of the centre in 1995 near Doel Chattar, but the university authorities shifted the site twice and finally selected the present site where Iranian Foreign Minister Sayed Kamal Kharraji opened the plaque on February 15 this year.

This is for the first time the new administration of the university faced a challenge on the issue and took a hard-line.

The authorities in official statements termed the anti-construction campaign as a "movement of a few students" and called it a "propaganda to divert the attention of the common students to a wrong direction".

They also accused the "vested quarters" of "provoking some environmentalist to create anarchy on the campus". Even a university official responsible for law and order on the campus angrily reacted to the SUAUC activists recently saying, "those who sit under the trees indulge in anti-social activities like taking drugs.

As the situation turns worse over the issue, the proposed project director of the Centre, who prefers anonymity, feared the Iranian authorities may withdraw or suspend the grant.

Chairman of the Department of Persian and Urdu Abu Musa Muhammad Arif Billah said the

General

UN ASSISTANT

recalled family members.

conveyed sympathy to the be-

cause of the fire incident they said

the tragic deaths of nine girls in

They expressed deep shock at

these cases filed against them.

and workers and withdrawal of the

leaders of the treated party leaders

Hossain, during interrogations.

Sonu Dutta, Chhatri League

leader Monirul Islam and Mokhter

Siddique, Judo League leader