

Nahid backs early polls to student bodies

Bdnews24.com - Dhaka

ACADEMIC activities in autonomous universities have been facing disruptions due to a number of reasons, including non-existence of student unions, the education minister has said.

Nurul Islam Nahid was answering to a query by Tarana Halim MP in parliament on Sunday.

He emphasised holding elections to the student unions on time to remove threat to academic activities in the universities.

According to the minister, some other reasons causing disruptions include absence of sports and cultural activities, clashes between rival groups of students for control over dormitories and tenders, and administrative weaknesses.

Nahid also attached importance to holding cultural functions regularly.

He suggested allocating seats in dormitories based on merit list.

He also urged the teachers to be attentive in their work and shun politics.

'I hope academic activities in the autonomous universities will not be disrupted if these steps are taken.'

'But,' the minister added, 'the universities concerned will have to take necessary steps first. The government will extend all help in this regard.'

The student unions of the autonomous universities have not seen any election in past two decades. Students of some universities have been demonstrating demanding elections to their unions.