

DU sleeps, BCL allocates seats

PROTIK CHAKRABORTY

Instead of the authorities, pro-Awami League student body Bangladesh Chhatra League is allotting freshers accommodation at Dhaka University dormitories and using them for petty political purposes.

By not reacting to this, the DU authorities are violating the University Ordinance and Regulation (Part-II), 1973. Section-13 of it states that only the hall authorities will look after the seat allotment at halls.

A non-resident student can also stay as a guest at his or her attached hall upon permission from the provost. The guest will also have to obtain consent of the resident student with whom he/she will stay, according to the ordinance.

But about the ongoing malpractice, the authorities said they were not legally obliged to provide the freshers with residential facilities. They come up with the plea of seat crisis whenever told about the residential problem of the students.

The authorities also remain silent about the BCL outsiders who are occupying at least 250 rooms of different dormitories.

Every year, around 3,000 students enrol in DU from outside the capital. Of them, about 1,000 to 1,500 students get the chance to stay in the dormitories.

With the Dhaka students combined, as many as 23,000 students stay in 19 DU halls -- 13 for males and 6 for females -- against a capacity for 12,000.

They all have to go through a mental stress, as BCL leaders and activists force them to join political rallies and processions hampering their studies.

In many cases, the first-year students are not allowed to attend classes during political programmes.

The BCL men visit every room of the dormitories and ask the freshers to gather at the hall gates to join their processions. Often they keep the gates locked so that no one can dodge them.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

DU sleeps, BCL allocates seats

FROM PAGE 16

"I have missed several classes, as I had to attend BCL processions that start from my hall and parade the whole campus," said a first-year student who stays at Surya Sen Hall. He preferred anonymity fearing ouster from the dormitory.

Another fresher said they were often compelled to attend political gatherings at the hall guestrooms leaving aside their studies.

"Those who give tuition to manage their expenses like me are the worst sufferers," the student, who stays at Mohsin Hall, told The Daily Star.

If any student was found absent

in political gatherings without the permission of senior BCL leaders, s/he has to go through verbal and physical humiliation, seat cancellation or even eviction from the hall.

The situation in male dormitories is far worse than that of the female halls.

DU acting proctor Amzad Ali admitted that the dominance of the pro-ruling party student wing in halls was much greater than that of the university authorities.

Asked about the presence of outsiders at the dorms, he claimed to have taken actions against them. But the fact is the outsiders have

been living in the halls for years now.

BCL university unit president Mehedi Hasan Mollah claimed that they had instructed the hall unit leaders not to force any one to join political activities. He even said he would assist the university authorities in ousting the outsiders.

Many students, however, termed his claim "a political bluff".

When his attention was drawn, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the provosts of the halls had the authority to take action against these malpractices.