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## Unscheduled closures lead to session jams in DU

Dhaka University (DU) suffered 785 days of unscheduled closure during the last 17 academic years mainly due to "unhealthy student, teacher and national politics".

For this season most of the departments of the university are reeling under the pressure of more than three or six months of session jams, according to proctor office sources.

The sources said because of this unscheduled closures, the university also incurred a huge amount of financial loss during the period.

The DU, the country's largest university, lost 94 academic days in 1991-92, the highest so far, and the lowest 10 days in 1992-93, the sources added.

The sources said the university 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.

A section of teachers and students have been involved in unhealthy politics on the campus for a long time, the sources said and alleged that teachers and students of the university who are not involved with politics are the victims of such unsound politics.

While the general students suffer from unofficial closure that often lead to chronic session jams.

DU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Pro-  
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### DU

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fessor SMA Faiz thinks politics is the fundamental rights to every citizen of a democratic country like Bangladesh. "But we feel sad when we see that a teacher of a country's highest seat of learning prefers politics to education," said VC in a tone of anguish and frustration. Staging of strikes called by the student wings of different political organizations is one of the main causes of the unscheduled closures of the university. Even the student bodies have enforced strikes on the campus centering on and off campus issues, the sources said.

The sources said work stoppage programme by teachers is another very common cause of unscheduled closures of the university.

The DU Teachers Association (DUTA) observed work stoppage from February 28 to March 20, 2004 protesting the attack on noted academic and writer Humayun Azad on February 26 of the same year during the Ekushey Book Fair.

Because of work stoppage programmes, the university suffered a huge amount financial loss and it caused more than two-month-long additional session jam, the sources added.

The sources said the university authorities had to postpone all examinations and scheduled classes for more than four hundred days during last 17 years due to unhealthy political environment in the country.