

Sunday, February 19, 2023

NEWAGE

Damaged Tagore sculpture reinstalled

DU Correspondent | Published at 12:52am on February 19, 2023



The reinstalled sculpture of Rabindranath Tagore stands on the Dhaka University campus on Saturday. The authorities had removed it Thursday following its installation on Tuesday. — Sony Ramany

The sculpture of Rabindranath Tagore, which was removed and vandalised, was reinstalled at the previous place, near anti-violence Raju Sculpture, on the Dhaka University campus on Saturday.

A banner was also placed there, reading ‘Abolish Digital Security Act and all kinds of censorship.’

Dhaka University unit Bangladesh Students Union president Shimul Kumbhkaar said, ‘We have reinstalled the vandalised sculpture. It is a protest against repression and censorship. We have also placed two banners.’

He said, ‘We want to keep the sculpture in the place till the end of the Book Fair,’ he added.

About the reinstallation, DU professor AKM Golam Rabbani said, 'The sculpture was removed because it was illegal. We request students to remove it. They should not do anything that disrupts the normal course of education.'

Earlier about installation of the sculpture, DU proctor said that they could not take the responsibility for Rabindranath Tagore's broken sculpture which was found at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The university authorities on Thursday removed the sculpture of Rabindranath Tagore which was installed on Tuesday, in protest against recent incidents of censorship and alleged repression in the country, by university students near the anti-violence Raju Memorial Sculpture on the Dhaka University campus.

Dhaka University proctor professor AKM Golam Rabbani said, 'We always encourage sculpture as a symbol of movements and struggles. If a sculpture needs to be installed on the Dhaka University campus, it should be installed following a proper formal procedure.'

'We did not know who erected the sculpture. I learnt about this after removing the sculpture. No one was found when we removed the sculpture. This type of sculpture fits well in a park so we placed it at the Suhrawardy Udyan within the university boundaries. If someone breaks it, we can't take responsibility for this,' he added.

In the sculpture, Rabindranath Tagore's mouth was taped shut and a book in his hand was closed and nailed as a symbol of protest.

Students complained that the sculpture had been missing since Thursday morning.

The spot where the sculpture was placed later had a banner reading 'Gum Hoye Gachhe Rabindranath (Rabindranath has been forcibly disappeared).'



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