

Student Cadres Vs  
Education

Sir,

This has reference to your post-editorial 'Matters of the moment' on Education by A.Z.M. Haider published on Aug. 18. I fully endorse his views and wish to add this for public response.

The govt. seems now extremely busy (!) with handling terrorism in the country. Undoubtedly terrorism has become a cancer-like disease. It has branched out its roots in every arena of our society. If we are to reduce its effect we must find out preventive measures right now. To my mind the preventive measures should start from the education sector.

In our Universities (exception Private Universities) and Colleges (exception Cadet Colleges, Cantonment Public Colleges) terrorism looms large. Virtually no University or College administration in Bangladesh runs without bowing their heads to the 'student' terrorists.

Now-a-days the running business of local student leaders is to collect money from the students seeking admission to reputed colleges they get those seekers admitted under their organizational banner. These leaders put undue pressure on the college authority to admit those students (even if they have not qualified in the admission test).

Later on these unqualified students become their tool for acts of hooliganism on the campus. These student terrorists attend very few classes (sometimes not a single one), do not appear at the tutorial or internal examinations (and if any college authority make them appear for exams they fail miserably) but they force the authority to get them promoted.

These few students create tremendous pressure with their outside political aides-de-camp on the authority to allow the examinees to adopt unfair means in the examination. In some colleges they force the authority to arrange for them a separate room to sit for the exam (in the guise of sickbed) and cheat freely and openly.

From my personal experience as a teacher and a principal of a reputed college I have the strong sentiment that student leaders (I detest to call them leaders) of the ruling party at any time are the leading trouble makers against the smooth academic and administrative running of an institution.

A college administration can effectively thwart the pressure of the student fronts by strictly referring to the rules and regulations. But in case of a govt. party the situation reverses—rather the authority is coerced effectively. Until such local student terrorism is effectively checked it will be futile to find fault with others—the judges, the police or the administration.

Help educational institutions to run smoothly and maintain an academic atmosphere and the country will soon get on the path to recovery, peace and prosperity.

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