

President's Reminder

Call him a guardian angel, conscientious objector or moral crusader and all that will fit his persona. But the fact of the matter is that President Shahabuddin Ahmed has been merely voicing the basic concerns of the nation as a sagacious senior and first citizen of this country. And in doing so he hardly ever enjoys himself. For, quite simply, he cannot be elated over his having to say the unpleasant for the umpteenth time because the key players of politics have not paid heed to it. It could not obviously please the president to be a role-model in public pulse reading when placing the finger on it and acting to its throbs are the basic functions of political leaders. Not his. But well, he seems to be bearing that cross, too.

What is it President Shahabuddin has been persistently driving at? If one were to recall his speeches of last five to six months it will become crystal clear that his one clarion call to all concerned has been to save the educational institutions from ruination. If our present is endangered by intolerance between major political parties our future is imperilled by the campus scavengers of terrorists working "under the banner of various front organisations of different political parties", as the President reminded their mentors once again. The political parties are still dragging their feet on the most pressing agenda of declaring a complete disconnection with their student front organisations thus paving the way for their dewatering in the conclusive sense. The handy slogan "terrorists belong to no political parties" has regrettably become not only an obsolete cliché in record short time, it has also begun to sound hypocritical especially after the armed feuding incidents in the BCL. The internecine outbursts exacerbating the campus situation — already so deeply troubled by BCL-JCD clashes — reveal how little control the political leaders wield on their boys in the student fronts.

It is a shame that the President's words of advice which strike a responsive chord with the patriotic citizens of the country have been ignored so brazenly for so long. We want an affirmative action on this before it is too late. For we are chary of the prospect of being 'a below-standard nation', as the President put it.