

130 DAILY STAR

2.6 APR. 1998  
8 7

## Students Don't Like It

It was no revelation that most university students hate student politics and are all for banning it right now, as found in a study made recently at the DU. However, there was one element of shock and surprise in the findings made by the DU Department of Journalism: the respondent teachers were by and large against any prohibitory action against student politics.

Students had their explanation of the teachers' stand. They mostly believe majority of the teachers were themselves deeply involved in politics, including student politics.

Only the other day we had observed in these columns that the lull that was there in the university campuses was deceptive and things could explode anytime. Hardly had we said that, the DU campus became a battle ground and one student was killed by gunfire. The belligerent student parties have vowed to soon cut each other out in one big bloody encounter.

The outlook is then bleak and sad for peace in the campus. For the politicians would not of their own solve the problem; they are a party to the fray and think they are beneficiaries of a situation that is fast eroding the nation's innards — elan and character, resolve and capacity to act in unison.

That leaves us with the students who suffer the most and yet cannot make their disapproval felt. They have all society and President Shahabuddin supporting them in their denunciation of student politics of the current malignant nature.

The media can offer it some biting strength. But as with the teachers, the media too is riven into contrary camp-following. Well, independent press and, as a part of it, we call upon the government to gift the society two things: a moratorium on student politics in all educational institutions for a span advisably of five years. And, at the end of it students may organise groups and parties but not as front organisations of political parties. This is a practical proposal which would not harm any party and allow the students to be students again. Time and again President Shahabuddin has called upon our politicians to leave the students alone. Parents have made the same demand. Students are now saying the same thing. We urge upon the DU teachers to add their significant voice to what is emerging as a universal demand.