

Present trend of student politics criticised

A seminar in Dhaka on Tuesday bitterly criticised the present trend of student politics and suggested it be freed from the grip of terrorists and parent organisations, reports UNB.

While some discussants recalled the "glorious anti-autocratic role" of student politics in the past most of them wanted a ban or a moratorium on the present variety of student politics.

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) organised the seminar on "Student Politics: Alternative Visions." Academics, researchers, teachers and students participated in the daylong seminar.

However, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad

Chowdhury said he doesn't disfavour student politics as it played a vital role in bringing radical changes in different countries.

"Student politics have both good and dark sides. There are opinions both in favour and against it. But only students can bring changes in politics by introducing new phenomenon."

The VC is optimistic that the students will go for a new system of student politics for taking leadership of the nation in the coming century.

"We have to look forward to bring a change in the life of people of the country through positive student politics," Azad Chowdhury said.

(See Page 16 Col. 2)

Students politics

(From Page 1 Col. 3)

Presiding over the inaugural session, BISS Chairman Major General Mustafa Kamaluddin said: "Student politics had gained people's respect for their roles. But the glory has been eroded by the present party politics."

He commented that today's student politics can be compared to showdown of nihilism which threatened to corrode the pillar of education in the country.

Brigadier Muhammad Shahedul Anam Khan, DG of the BISS, said student politics should be practised in a manner where their academic results and subsequent careers are not destroyed.

Sheikh Masudur Rahman, who presented a paper as a student, said incidents of Jahangirnagar University proved that the students could build up a movement against injustice without being involved in party backed student politics.

A researcher of the BISS, Sabir Ahmed, opined that session jams in various universities are the results of national and teachers' politics, not student politics.

"A very small group of so-called students are engaged in dirty politics and this is the result of military ruled bureaucracy for long in our country," noted Zinat Huda, an Assistant professor of Dhaka University.

Zahirul Islam, a student of National University, said student politics is controlled by national politics and this situation would continue if national politics is not changed.

Shantonu Mazumder, a lecturer of Dhaka University, said the student politics should be issue based de-linking it from party politics.

Latif Masud, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University viewed that student politics should be banned. "I saw how it controls the campus and even is used for becoming a Vice Chancellor."