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**For peace on campus**

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The situation on university and college campuses over the years is worrying parents, guardians and teachers alike. Outbursts of violence have forced the university authorities to frequently suspend classes, postpone examinations and extend vacations. In the process academic sessions began to overlap and students wasted their time on the campus. It is unbelievable but true that the university hostels often become the sanctuaries of bomb makers and people who store unauthorized arms. Ordinary people avoid the university areas at night for fear of being mugged and attacked. All these do not speak well of the once prestigious educational institutions.

There are no two opinions that the source of trouble on the campus lies outside it. The clashes and the violence in the universities and colleges are results of the socio-political situation. One cannot totally isolate the higher seats of education from the prevailing conditions in the country, but the present decay can be halted if the students themselves decide what do they want to gain from their stay on the campus. Academic achievements should be the primary goal of a student. It is not meant to say that a university or a college student would remain oblivious to his surroundings. He certainly would be concerned by prevailing situations but he can never expect to be the main engine for change. The society does not expect him to be so. He benefits himself, the society and the country most by devoting himself to his studies. On the other hand, he denies his own future services to the society by not taking care of his academic achievements.

As violence has continued to wreck academic peace, unwilling victim has been standard of education. The university corridors which used to echo once the footsteps of such intellectual stalwarts like Prof Satyen Bose, Prof Kazi Motaher Hussain and Dr Mahalanabish hardly have the time now to concentrate on fundamental research either in natural sciences or in the liberal arts. The prestige of a university depends on the academic calibre of its faculties, the quality of research and the seriousness of its students. Can any university now boast of a work of research which can creditably put the institution on the academic map?

Everybody will, however agree that Bangladesh despite her financial constraints can make substantial contribution to the academic wealth of the world through her brilliant men and women of science and the arts. But for this we need unhindered peace on the campus and an uninterrupted academic life for our teachers as well as our students. It is a patriotic duty on the part of all to help in building that peace in the universities. We cannot afford to fail in that duty.