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Clashes among students

CLASHES among rival groups of students, quite often leading to killing, have become just a routine matter. The highest seats of learning are no more characterized by liberal education and a broader approach to life and all that it means in a liberal, democratic and sophisticated society. They are rather characterized by gunshots, clashes and blood-bath. A university in our country is now known more for these martial exercises than for its standard of teaching and research quality.

The same is true about other educational institutions. Today it is between Dhaka College and City College, tomorrow it is between Jagannath College and some others, the other day it is between Kabi Nazrul Islam College and some others, and so on and so forth. Heroism and 'masthanism' have contaminated the schools even. No parent is sure if the ward, going to educational institutions, is coming back home safe and sound.

What the political parties both in the government and in the opposition are reaping by creating an atmosphere of commotion on campuses and by setting one group of boys against another they know best. Possibly they think they gain out of it, and this is the way to remaining in or going to power. Possibly this

is also true for the time being. But this is at the same time a selfish, inhuman and anti-people approach to politics. Also this does not pay in the long run. While one speaks not through logic or reason but through gunshots and rattling of sabre, the other also feels the necessity of doing the same. Thus every gunshot is answered by another and this is bound to go on till self-destruction to all. Are we sinking to that state of self-annihilation? If that is our object, why do we involve students, young men and women, who have yet to live for many years, see and enjoy the world? If killing is good and the solution is nothing but killing, why don't the politicians kill each other? Of course, while the politicians speak they speak at the pitch of their voice against anarchy and become saviours of democracy. But is it believable that our students will take up arms and use them without at least a tacit support of those who involve them and use them in politics? Just see the extent of their selfishness. While students seem to be the capital of their politics, they send their own sons and daughters abroad for better education and attractive degrees.

Jamaat, BNP, Awami League, Government or whoever it is, must acknowledge the fact that the course politics is taking day by day is dangerous for all of them, dangerous for the whole nation. It is leading the country to nothing but anarchy. The political parties both in power and in the opposition should therefore come out either in a body or individually, to condemn anarchy in poli-

tics and to condemn self-destructive activities and language of gunshots among the students. This they must do with all sincerity, if not for any other reason for their own sake. They should go with their programmes among the people and try to convince them that they really want their welfare and not power as an end in itself. Unless they have basis among the people and get their genuine support they cannot reach their goal by merely involving students in politics creating confusion and infusing mutual hatred among them.

People want peace and prosperity for themselves and for the whole nation. They also want that the educational institutions mean their business and there is no session jam. They want to see their wards established in society and earn a decent living.

There cannot be calm in the classroom and atmosphere of education on the campus if sabres rattle and guns click just beside the classroom. Nor can sloganeering and learning a lesson go together. Everything will, however, depend on what shape our politicians and thinkers would desire to give to politics and to all other things that touch the people and the country as a whole.