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**Campus without violence**

The Dhaka university is reopening at last on Sept 27 after nearly two months of forced closure. But fears of another shutdown in the near future will not be unreal. Such apprehensions are there because there is yet to be a clear pledge for renunciation of violence on the campus by all quarters. One expects that the law enforcing agencies have been able by now to dig out all the unauthorized weapons believed to have been stashed in safe havens in the cupboards of residential halls. There are reports that the students will be searched by the university disciplinary committee before they are again allowed to take up residence in the halls. There is also no guarantee that weapons will not make a fresh entry into the campus when the vigil is lessened.

Illegal arms flow in wherever there are eager customers for it. The Dhaka university with its problem of enforcing discipline turned into a storehouse for these weapons. Unless conditions can be created that weapons cannot be kept on the campus with impunity there is no hope that gunbattles which led to the university's closure in July will not be repeated. The university authorities cannot themselves create these conditions if they do not receive total cooperation of the students, the guardians, the law enforcing agencies and the general mass of citizens. It is in this respect that the Vice-Chancellor's plea for maintaining peace on the campus has been appropriate and ought to be seriously considered by all. Prof Abdul Mannan said on Thursday that the university would be taking every possible measure for stopping campus terrorism but he needed support from all parties irrespective of political affiliations.

One silver lining in an otherwise gloomy climate prevailing on most campuses is the mass awareness now that a solution had to be found to the continuing violence in the universities which had led to a tremendous loss in academic years and to declining standards. The first evidence of this consciousness was seen in a unanimous resolution in Parliament during its last budget session which called for restoring academic peace. Unfortunately, this resolution could not be implemented because the universities were unable to enforce discipline due to extraneous pressures. There is, however, still scope for wiping the dust over this resolution and implementing it. This could be the beginning of a new era for the higher educational studies in the country.