

Education system, DU Order need changes: President

Handful of student cadres holding campuses hostage

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Sunday made an appeal to all concerned for stopping anarchial activities on the campus keeping in view the future of the country, failing which he said, "in our educational institutions only buildings, teachers and students will remain, but education will vanish, reports BSS.

The President was speaking as the chief guest at the inaugural session of a seminar on "problems in education at university levels and their solution" organised by the Bangladesh University Teachers Federation at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in

Dhaka.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed said there is hardly any educational institution in Bangladesh where congenial atmosphere prevails. He said in most of the colleges and universities, anarchy prevails, terrorism, gun-battle, extortion and ugly party politics are the order of the day.

The President said many people think that a handful of student cadres belonging to political parties have held the educational institutions hostage. He said, "this state of things cannot be allowed to continue and precious student career cannot be sacrificed at the alter

of dirty party politics."

He said students are country's future, so all concerned should make determined efforts so that students could be groomed into responsible and worthy citizens and not trained out as musclemen. He held the political parties more responsible for this and said these parties were using the students for their "nefarious party purposes."

President Shahabuddin said that if the major political parties arrive at a consensus to keep the educational institutions violence-free, then within a few days student cadres will disappear, terrorism will cease

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Referring to job opportunities he said the tradition of full dependence on government or semi-government services must be changed as the scope for these services is very limited.

Pointing to the dependence of the universities on government fund he said in the Dhaka University 92 per cent of the budgetary provision comes from the government. He said this dependence could be reduced to some extent by increasing student tuition fees in phases.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed said in the greater interest of education some amendments should be made in the Dhaka University Order 1973 regarding appointment of Vice-Chancellors and creation of central students unions and hall unions.

He said under the existing order provision has been made for appointment to important posts in Dhaka University by election and even students have been given right to send their representatives to the Senate, members of which select candidates for appointment of the Vice-Chancellor. Consequently teachers have to go to the students seeking their votes and support. There should be some amendment in this provision, he said.

Under the existing regulations of Dhaka University a student may remain a student or student-leader all his life.

The President expressed the opinion that eligibility of students for election of their unions should be limited to only regular students and the

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and peaceful academic atmosphere will return.

He said recently some university teachers who command universal respect are involving themselves in politics, supporting this or that political party on the campus. This is adding fuel to the fire of student politics, he said.

He said, "question of democratic right of teachers and students may be raised, but it should be kept in mind that politics on the campus, whether indulged in by teachers or students, has nothing to do with the exercise of the democratic right or expression of political opinion."

Referring to a report published recently in the Asia Week magazine on performance and standard of education of the universities in Asia the President said the magazine gave a list of 50 universities which were considered best. But no university of Bangladesh including Dhaka University, which once used to be referred to as the "Oxford of the East," found place in that list of 50 universities.

He said standard of education in Bangladesh has so much deteriorated that degrees and diplomas awarded here are hardly recognised abroad.

Terming our education system as "unrealistic" the President said this should be revised keeping in view the demand of time for science and technology based education and creation of professionally skilled manpower like electrician, mechanic, furniture maker, doctor and engineer.

He said, "at higher levels general education will of course continue, but all students must not take part in it. Education should be science and technology oriented, besides, vocational education for creating skilled work force."

term of a union should be fixed for only one year on the expiry of which it shall stand dissolved automatically. He said if for some unavoidable circumstances a new union is not elected, an adhoc committee should be appointed by the Syndicate from the most meritorious students of different faculties.