

544

DU drops the writing habit

Keep the walls clean, VC urges students

By Abul Kalam Azad

The drive to keep the walls of Dhaka University buildings white has hit snags as the student organisations carry on writing graffiti on the walls.

The DU authorities have been asking the student bodies for the last 10 years or so not to write on the walls, only to see the pleas ignored.

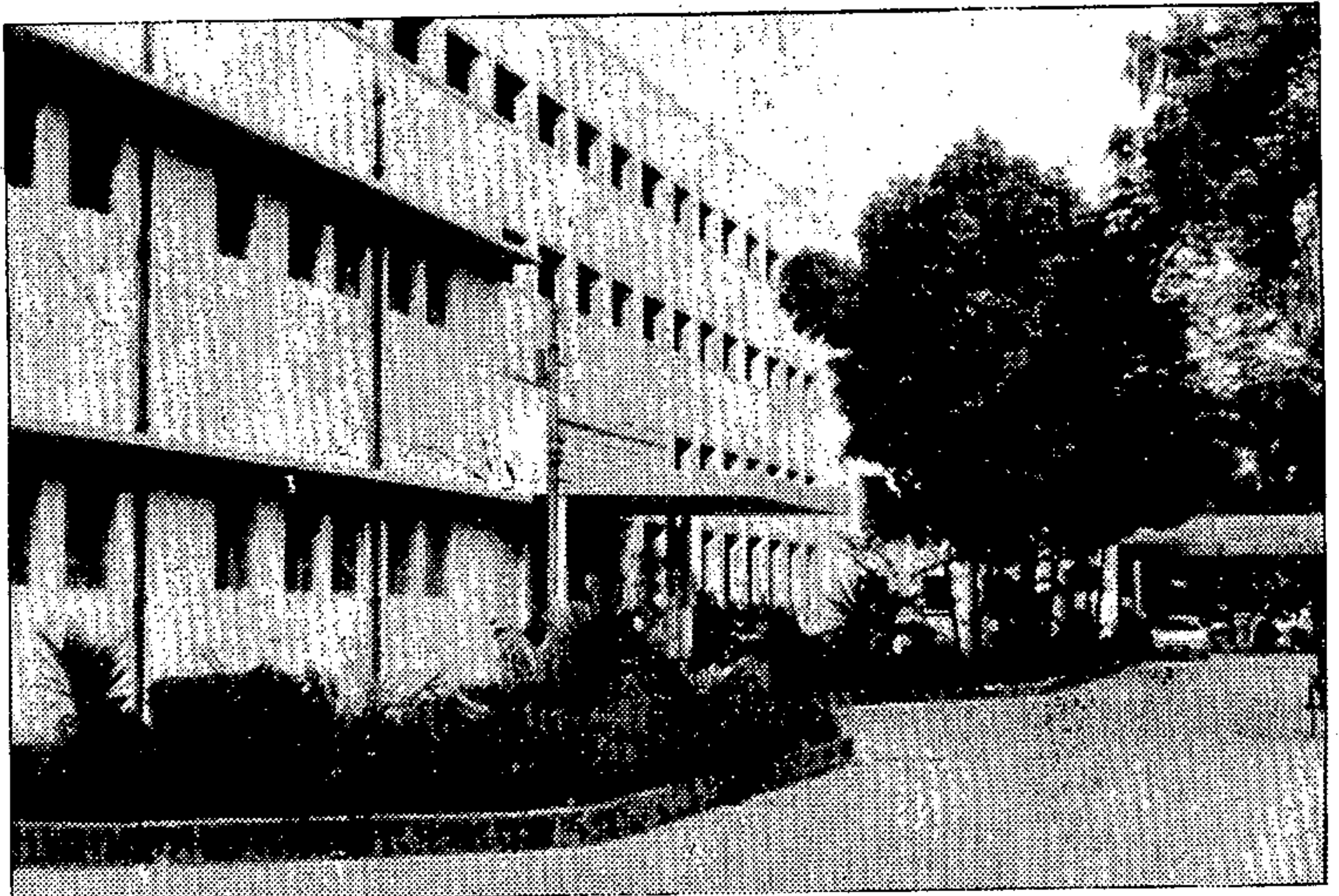
"We are very eager to maintain cleanliness to uphold the image of the country's highest seat of learning. As part of our drive, we have already placed flower tabs in every floor of Arts Building, Science Annex and Curzon Hall," the Vice-chancellor, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said.

The VC said as part of the clean-up drive, the buildings and the walls were recently whitewashed and the garbage disposed. Modern lighting systems have been installed on the campus while a huge number of rubbish bins have also been kept in front of the departments.

Everybody should help the authorities to keep the university clean. This will create a congenial academic atmosphere on the campus, Prof Azad said. "If we can maintain cleanliness on the campus, it would help us to contain terrorist activities at Dhaka University."

But the student organisations seem least bothered when it comes to keeping the campus clean, resented the VC. "The student organisations are very interested in political issues. They don't care about the interest of the university."

"Whenever I urged them not to slap posters or paint graffiti on the clean buildings and walls... they never paid any



No writing on the wall

The Arts Faculty building at DU looks heavenly after its recent facelift. Everyone wishes it would stay that way, and we will be keeping an eye on it to see which group spoils it first.

—Star photo

heed," he said. Student leaders would usually promise that they would never use the whitewashed buildings and walls for slapping posters or painting graffiti and then would not keep their words.

The buildings and the walls were whitewashed last month and student bodies were again asked to spare these from posters and graffiti. But to no

avail, the VC regretted.

The student organisations, however, have kept their hands off the Arts Building. This time, it has cost the authorities Tk 50,000 to have the building whitewashed, a DU official said.

Sources said that university authorities have decided to set up billboards at different points on the campus so that student

bodies can use these boards for their political slogans and spare the buildings and walls.

The fate of the clean-up efforts will hinge on the response of the student organisations, said a student of political science department of the university.

"But at the end of the day, I do want a nice-looking campus."