

MM

Shifting exam venue // for AL meeting

*A flagrant disregard for
students' interests*

IT is absurd that a master's exam centre at a college in Gazipur was shifted without prior notice to let the local branch of Awami League hold a public meeting in the college premises. How would the college administration have ensured that none of the examinees had been left uninformed about the change beforehand? This is a flagrant disregard for students' interests that any educational institution is duty-bound to protect.

An educational institution is supposed to be used for educational purposes only. How could an outside meeting outweigh a crucial educational event like a public exam? Had the college been closed, the meeting could have been allowed to take place. It was not only open but also reserved for a crucial exam. As many as 1,600 students were poised to sit for the exam at Bhawal Badre Alam Government College, but had to take their exam in different centres.

We appreciate the fact that the meeting was later postponed, but it was too late and the students had still to go to the changed venues. Even as the exam venue was shifted in nearby schools and colleges, if the event had continued, it would have disrupted the exam process. It was originally not just an unethical decision but also a reckless one.

The fact that the event was permitted in the first place highlights the helplessness of the college authorities in the face of such demands from the local wing of the ruling party. It also demonstrates a tendency among local ruling party members to treat every government property as their own.