domination. Women were pulled out

of bathrooms by their hair

clothes were torn and women

experience of sexual or pleasurable

sensations produced by acts of

cruelty and as bodily punishment. It

may also consist of innate desire to

humiliate, hurt, wound, or even

destroy others." To sadists,

emotional terror and successful

deception are as important as the

Ban student politics

Our students played a laudable role

in 1952, during the 60's and 70's in

launching movement against the

then Pakistani occupation forces

and achieving independence

Given these, that the student

politics in Bangladesh became

indisputable is quite usual. The

leading idea in this respect was that

the student leaders will provide

students with important services

such as information on admission

and fees, scholarships and funding

to travel, assistance in dealing with

institutional regulations, a

stimulating and supportive

environment, cultural development

etc. But to our utter dismay, we see

the student leaders engaging

themselves in establishing

supremacy over halls and campus.

They are seen to possess arms and

use those in criminal activities. They

hire miscreants and terrorists in

intra-party clashes or in clashes

between different parties. They

have become extortionists and

snatchers of tender boxes in and

to paralyse its educational

institutions and that is exactly what

political interests and work

concertedly to restore congenial

atmosphere in our educational

institutions and freeing the campus

from terrorists and miscreants. To

achieve this goal, the best solution

The government is thinking of

banning student politics. It will be

one of the best decisions to protect

our children from getting killed like

Minister Khleda Zia to take the issue

seriously although I do disagree

with government's other policies.

This is a hot issue to be resolved

soon or else the leaders will be

blamed for using the student wings

has glorious background but with

the passage of time it has lost its

credibility. I do believe that the

opposition political force will not

oppose the attempt of the present

government. I hope the student

politics ban issue will not be in limbo

There has been much debate going

on about 'student politics'. I believe

under the present socio-political

condition there is no other option left

I have read comments like "The

solution to head-ache can not be

cutting off your head". But I wonder if

politics hold the same significance

in the student's life as head holds as

part of a human body. I believe the

main function of a student is to study

not to do any sort of "Tenderbaji".

Politics can be good but when it

causes session-jams, chaos and life

loss then it takes the shape of an

infected organ, which if not removed

will soon effect the functioning parts

of our body. I highly appreciate the

decision of BUET and I hope the

same will be implemented on rest of

but to ban student politics.

like other pro-people movements.

Farid Ahmed

ASA, Bangladesh

I do admit that student politics

to achieve their political interest.

I like to congratulate Prime

has happened in our country.

is to ban student politics.

Sony every now and then.

University of Alberta, Canada

Md. Abdur Rab

To destroy a nation, it is enough

It is high time to set aside petty

around the campus.

infliction of bodily harm.

respectively.

Sadism is defined as: "The

abused verbally.

Fate of the ordinary

I am an 'ordinary' student of Dhaka University. Ordinary in the sense that I am no brave daughter of the soil to be involved in student politics and I have not taken any oath to sacrifice my career for the future of my country. For the past one and a half years I have been going to IBA in the morning to do my classes and have been back home as soon as the lectures ended. I have seen a lot of processions, heard lots of 'jaalamoyi' speeches and often wondered if the students who involved themselves in these 'great' deeds be ever paid for such activities.

With the recent massacre that took place at the early hour of July 24, political activists in DU have called for an indefinite strike. Our exams have been postponed and the future made more uncertain. The ones who called for the strike definitely have their interests, but

results will be disastrous.

injustice and failure.

let this happen.

under the claws of terrorism.

what happens to ordinary students

like us? All our courses were

finished and we were waiting for the

semester to end with the exams. A

semester filled with all the toil of

submitting term papers and

have to bear with this nuisance? Not

only our careers, but our life is at

stake too. Just like Sony in BUET, I

could be the next victim. Thank God

student politics has been banned in

BUET, but that to be exercised in

Dhaka University is perhaps too

good to be true. Although at IBA

none of us are involved in student

politics, we still have to suffer.

Earlier last year, our semester

started late because of call of

indefinite strike in the campus by

political activists. Those activists,

who probably do not even touch

their textbooks (do they have the

time?) or are least bothered about

their careers. After all they are the

Choudhury or anyone else anyone

When I saw the photographs of the

Shamsunnahar Hall incident I was

absolutely baffled. It seemed so

unreal that the police were attacking

helpless female students. Attacking

a female dormitory late night? It is

loose" I felt horrified at the same

time sympathetic for those students.

I am shocked and furious to learn

about the involvement of the

university authorities in this brutal

incident. They have claimed that

this was an action taken against the

outsiders and the unruly students.

But how is it possible for the police to

differentiate between whose the so-

called outsiders and unruly students

I am also shocked to read a few

letters where the writers have said

that they are not sorry for the

victims? I don't have any words to

If the VC and the Proctor had a

hand in this then they must be

and who are the genuine ones?

criticise them.

As I read the story "Hell broke

Can Professor Anwarullah

great sons of the soil.

IBA, Dhaka University

Hall incident

absolutely outrageous.

Shamsunnahar

answer me?

A Siddiai

Why do we, the politically neutral,

preparing for finals.

A frustrated student

Dhaka University

actions.

The VC is to blame

If VC Anwarullah Chowdhury thinks he can get

away with anything because he is backed by

BNP, he is wrong! And if the government

continues to back him in spite of the way he has

been using or rather 'abusing' his power, the

The majority of the students of DU are not

involved in politics. They don't have weapons

or godfathers. But that does not mean they will

quietly endure the oppression and terrorism of

the brutal police force, non-student JCD cadres

and a dishonest and shameless VC. From the

very beginning, this government has made it

very clear that the welfare of the general public

is not their priority. But how long do they expect

us to submit ourselves to this 'reign of terror'?

To shut down the University to evade the

student's movement and to drive the students

out of their dorms is an act of cowardice,

It's really ironic that this government

pretends to care about the educational

institutions of the country and speaks of

banning student politics. Now we know what

they mean by that. They will ban all kinds of

political activity only to make sure that no one

can protest against the misdeeds of JCD.

Majority of the students will then become even

more helpless and more vulnerable. We can't

The university campus belongs to us, to the

students who really care for the institution and

want to study here. We must fight the evil

powers threatening us and our precious DU.

We are living in an independent country and we

are not going to spend the prime of our life

With great sorrow and distrust we have

witnessed the atrocities committed by the

police in the dead of the night on the female

students of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka

University. The Ministry and the University

authority are coming up with many

explanations of the incident. But with more

comments and explanation, the government is

exposing its hollowness of its thoughts and

But whom to blame most for this brutality?

Though many may be responsible but it is the

VC whose short-sightedness, lack of respect to

the rules, lack of willingness to show honour to

a fellow colleague, over-partisanship and lack

resign. And where is the opposition now? What do they have to say about it?

I also suggest that the government sort out their acts. People are losing faith in them fast.

The police excesses at midnight on the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall reveal what a democratic country we live in!

And, we must pity ourselves for having such a Home Minister who is still occupying the post with his 'asif-nothing-happened' smile. From where did the police get the guts to torture the female students of the highest institution of learning? Who are they to try the students for their demand--whatever that might be? Anik, Amit and Mamun Lalmatia, Dhaka

Images of protest

Chittagong

of ability to manage the situation aggravate the

crisis to such a degree. The government would

do good if the VC is removed. It will not only

calm the situation but also restore faith of the

students and general people in the ability and

intention of the government in running our

No one but the VC is to be blamed for the unrest

in Dhaka University. It was his nonchalant and

Instead of protecting and looking after the

students he allowed the police to torture them!

What right he has to remain the VC of one of the

If he were genuinely concerned about the

students, he would have resigned immediately

protesting the police atrocities on the female

students. Instead of resigning he is trying to

justify the raid! In order to improve the situation

the government has no choice but to ask Prof.

Naturally the DU authority had to

take all possible precautionary

measures to avoid any violence and

bloodshed. The DU authority, after

having failed to contain the

situation, was very correct in

requesting the police to come and

control the situation at

have many female members. They

sent there as many female

members as they could manage.

When police come, or are called in

to quell any riotous situation, they do

not come to shower flower petals on

the recalcitrant. They are very much

authorised by law first to use threat

of force. If it fails then they can apply

actual force by using batons and

even fire arms, if necessary. Here it

is irrelevant to ask who is doing the

job, a male or a female police

official. Because the constitution of

our country does not make any

Unfortunately our police do not

amsunnahar Hall.

highest seat of education in the country?

Anwarullah Chowdhury to resign.

Chumki Khondokar

Banani, Dhaka

The way the police force carried out

its atrocities on the female students

of the Shamsunnahar Hall has

shocked the entire nation. What

prompted the police force and the

DU authorities to go for such a

heinous act and that too at midnight

is beyond one's imagination. No one

expected such type of brutalities

under a democratically elected

The government must not take it

lightly and try the culprits to restore

faith of the general students. At the

same time I request the Prime

Minister to ban student politics as

well as teacher's politics in all the

educational institutions of the

How dare police touch our female

students? Don't they have wives,

the police action? Isn't it his

responsibility to look after the safety

of female students, irrespective of

The general students protested

JCD's bid to change their provost, is

this such an unpardonable crime

The government must ban

student politics as well as teacher's

politics to restore congenial

atmosphere in our educational

I have no words to condemn the

barbaric act of police in

Shamsunnahar Hall. I'm astonished

the way VC clarified the whole

matter. How could he permit the

police to enter a female dormitory

late at night? It is the VC who should

be held responsible for this heinous

incident. And he should resign

Minister and the way she has

reacted to the incident. It's a good

decision to form a judicial enquiry

committee. The committee must

carry out their task promptly and

neutrally and submit the report as

early as possible. The University

authority should make sure that

I must urge all the concerned to

think seriously whether we should

such incident never occurs again.

I must, however, thank the Prime

How could the VC be unaware of

country without much delay.

government.

Igbal Ahmed

institutions.

immediately.

Reaz Mohiuddin

sisters and mothers?

which party they support?

that they should be beat up?

Notre Dame College, Dhaka

partisan attitude that has instigated the unrest.

educational institutions and the country.

punished and not only asked to ban student politics or not. We all know that where there is politics there is violence, there is power game. And the last thing we want is our students to get involved in this dirty power game.

Parimal Chandra Debnath Gandaria, Dhaka

Whose fault is it anyway?

As the newspaper reports go, two groups of belligerent students, including some outsiders, as alleged, were facing each other to take possession of the hall, and also keep or drive out the then Provost. The frequent incidents of violence in the Eden Girls' College Hostel, wherein lathi, boti, iron rods, knives and even pistols and revolvers were freely used, speak for the fact that our female students are no longer weak and docile as they used to be, say, 20 years ago.

discrimination in the application of the law made under it. Shedding of blood or breaking of the limbs, whether it is that of a man or of a woman, must be stopped. The law of the land does not grant any special privilege to the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall to shed one another's blood, or break one another's limbs, freely

About the time at which the police took action, as they deemed necessary, no one can raise any question. Police can and should take preventive action anywhere to avoid rioting at any time of the day or

The four most pertinent questions here are: a. Did there arise a situation at Shamsunnahar Hall in the evening

of July 23, 2002 which justifiably compelled DU authority to call the police to control it? b. Did the police use force more than what was necessary to bring the

situation under control? c. While doing his/her duty did any member of the police harassed any of the students or others who were present there?

d. Did the whole episode take place because of teacher/student politics in DU?

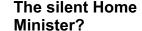
New DOHS, Mahakhali, Dhaka

Ashraf

Why blame the police force for the midnight raid in Shamsunnahar Hall, it's the responsibility of the ruling party supporters-- who initiated, instigated, invited and let loose the police force upon the innocent students. So the total responsibility rests on the ruling party, particularly the Shamsunnahar hall JCD leaders (who are not even the students of DU any more) backed by puppet DU VC and Proctor.

After winning in the election BNP has let loose its supporters upon AL activists and non-supporter of BNP every where. The Shamsunnahar Hall incident is just another example Jkobir

Mirpur, Dhaka



Isn't it surprising that the Home Minister did not make any comment after the brutal police attack in Shamsunnahar Hall? Where is he? Syeda Laila Faruque Gulshan, Dhaka

* * *

I am really surprised at the silence of the Home Minister regarding the Dhaka University incident. Why hasn't he made any comment regarding the situation? As a Home Minister, isn't it his responsibility to at least say something about it, forget about trying to restore peace on the campus.

Sonia Sharmeen Jigatola, Dhaka

Where is the **Opposition?**

Hell broke loose in Dhaka University, the students were mercilessly beaten up, the general students have taken to streets and yet the main Opposition party Awami League is almost silent about it.

Instead of being by the side of the protesting students BCL-- the student wing of Awami League has called for hartal on July 30! They claim that the hartal was called protesting the arrival of the Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and the recent atrocities that took place in DU. But does it really help the general students protesting the brutality of the police atrocity? Is it an act of a responsible Opposition

Samia Salma Dhaka University

DU attack All day I've been trying to figure out what made the government order

such a vile attack on these harmless students. Then it struck me. Read the article in The Daily Star again. A great deal of it sounds like it is from

the educational institutions in Bangladesh. Student politics is something that erotica like the "Story of O" or from helps students to become aware of some of those violent Bangla and knowledgeable with the hope movies with lots of rape and

The midnight mishap screaming while riot police stamped on them with their boots and beat them with batons. Scarves and



A violent education

While condemning the action of the government, I do not want to go researching the background to the recent situation developing in the DU campus vis-à-vis Shamsunnahar Hall. It is all there in the print media. But I feel it is the creation of the present administration towards a mission to remove and replace everyone not subscribing to the BNP views.

Now the question is what prompted the law enforcing agencies unleash such a high degree of force on the female students at dead of night-- were they so dangerous to face in broad daylight! And how could a Vice Chancellor justify this act? It seems that his chair is more precious for him than the sanctity of his campus and students' dormitory protecting personal security and modesty of female students, which falls within his responsibility too.

Now what so suddenly happened at the Shamsunnahar Hall in an otherwise peaceful campus? The administration as expected has already pointed finger to the AL elements, but are they so strong or influential at the moment? This is not at all tenable to the guardians of the students as well as to the citizens of Bangladesh. Nevertheless, the VC did have the power to change/replace the provost at will. The government would have endorsed it gladly since this will be viewed as pro-establishment. Questions remain, what were the ex-JCD students doing in the Hall after their tenure of study. If the Provost had asked them to leave their rooms in the Hall that was in conformity with the existing rule of a residential hall. But what we have learnt, they have been seen having meeting with the VC and using university vehicle (re: DS report).

The government is advocating ban on students' politics. We all know the so-called big post of VC is 'managed' politically in the universities of Bangladesh. These people are long using the students in politics and polluting the campus environment. Before banning student politics the government should get rid of appointing VC in the present manner and ban teachers' involvement in politics as well as politicians using them to serve their interest. The very process of appointment of VCs directly sponsored by the party in power is one of the root causes of campus unrest in Bangladesh.

Dhaka

Dhaka University is an autonomous body and none but the DU authority is responsible for the Shamsunnahar Hall midnight mishap. The VC, the Proctor and his assistants are to blame for this incident. They instigated the police to enter and club the female students of the Hall. The police department of the government is the secondary force here. Such irreverence to the nation's highest student community, especially to the women, is intolerable. Shame on the DU authority, shame on the government. Formation of probe committee is a regular

step, as you have pointed out in your editorial, but we want speedy action taken against the culprits. Some one, whose dear one got groped and dragged by hair by the policemen, would know how much plagued I am regarding the incident.

We want justice. Let free and fair educational atmosphere prevail in DU. Mohd. Belal Hossain

Who wants to be

If you want to take up the job of

teaching in the university you are

not necessarily required to have

higher academic results. At least I

know of two such persons who have

made great achievements in their

Honours and Master's degrees

during the '60s one became a full

professor in the Dhaka University.

The other gentleman stood second

class 29th in his Honours

examination and have become the

vice-chancellor of a very well known

The heinous incident that took place

in Dhaka University-- the most

prestigious seat of learning is

could such brutality that too in a

female dormitory take place? What

does the BNP government has to

say about it now? What steps are

they going to take now? Forming a

political parties? Don't they have

anything to say about it? Do they

think by declaring hartal they have

I don't think the police force

should be blamed for this incident.

What was their fault? They were

only carrying out their order. It is the

University authority particularly the

VC who should be held responsible.

It is the responsibility of the VC to

look after the student's welfare but

did he fulfil his responsibility? In any

other countries the VC would

have resigned by now if a similar

incident took place but not in

nate people of an unfortunate

We are indeed the unfortu-

And what about the opposition

committee is definitely not enough.

In a democratic country how

university in Dhaka.

DU incident

fulfilled their duty?

Bangladesh.

shocking to say the least.

Thanks to politics.

Wahid Shafi

With third class results in both

lives pursuing this profession.

a professor?

Khilgaon, Dhaka

that potential political leader will emerge from the student group in the near future. But when I learn that there almost 66 students have been killed in DU alone, then I wonder, what is the significance of continuing student politics when it has not even produced half many proper leaders than it killed. If anyone is completely passionate about politics, then there is no restriction on getting involved with it in other ways. I am quite sure all the people who are talking in favour of student politics are some or the other way getting benefited at the cost of other students' life and

peace. I wonder if most of them hold proper degrees, or ever read the constitution of Bangladesh. What is needed now is more social work from these students if they want to contribute to the society. Students can arrange some sort of activities to help the hapless people of our society. This will help the students to incite a stronger social bonding and moral value, make them aware of the present situation

Mount Holyoke College, MA

of the country and add a meaningful

Banning is not the solution

chapter to their life.

I read Mr. M. J. Uddin's letter with interest. I agree with him in "getting rid of this violent student politics" but

I don't think banning the student's politics altogether is a good idea.

It's not only the student's politics which is violent, the politics as a whole has gone violent our country. Banning student politics will not help to get violence free politics. Politics has to go through normal process. Violence is not limited in politics

in our country. It is there everywhere. This issue has to be addressed properly.

In the democratic countries students do take part in politics, as it is a good learning process for the future leaders. Student politics does not have so much impact in the established democratic countries because other sections of people also take part in politics. Awareness of the people in general prevents any one group to be too influential. When more groups of our people will take active part in politics, the impact of student's politics will go

Banning is no solution to anything.

We should also remember the great contributions our students made in the language movement, in the democratic movements and also in the freedom movement. Waheed Nabi Sheffield, England

What about teacher's

politics?

I am stunned by the recent police atrocities at the Shamsunnahar Hall. The attempts to remove the provost of Shamsunnahar Hall and the subsequent incidents just remind me the attempts of removing the ex-VC Prof. Azad Chowdhury from his post and the way, how the existing VC took charge after the BNP came in power. The existing VC had shown a stunt by taking the charge at night about three or four hours after the office time and now he has shown an extraordinary stunt of police atrocities at the Shamsunnahar Hall at dead of

The problem of our university teachers is that their conscience does not prick them in taking any brazen step to pursue their political whims. The most sinister thing is that they are going to any length for coddling leaders of student wings of various political parties to attain their goals. All these are being done to gain favours of the political leaders. These are the outcome of today's teacher's politics. This politics lures them for the administrative posts and make them indifferent to classroom teaching. We talk about the harmful effect of student politics. But teacher politics is no any less harmful than student politics. Islam

Tangail

country **Anam Molla** Green Road, Dhaka

DU protest

I am extremely happy to see that July 27 protests were peaceful. It is also a great compliment to the genuine students of DU that JCD thugs couldn't intimidate them into silence. I'm also glad the BCL terrorists couldn't hijack the peaceful protests to their own

Speaking of BCL, the hartal on Tuesday was totally uncalled for. Genuine students are doing an excellent job. Citing Musharaff's visit to Dhaka is not a cause for calling a hartal either. On the contrary, Musharaff is an officer and a gentleman; he should be greeted as a respected friend. He will certainly show due respect to the martyrs of '71 unlike Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Calling a hartal on July 30 is an insult to the students of DU fighting against injustice and state sponsored terror and an affront to the hospitality of our country. Joyonto

Dhaka

We live abroad and always worry about our country as well as our friends and relatives back home. Recently police stormed into a female residential hall of Dhaka University (DU) and brutally beat up hundreds of students. And the worst thing is most of the victims were the non-political general students. The entire general students protested this by bringing out processions and

Those who make troubles are only a handful, but they gamble with the life of general students. Because of some culprits we

Education is a basic right of the people and it is some kind of investment for the nation. Holding differing political ideologies is



institutions.

From students and other Bangladeshis in Dresden, Germany, we are protesting this attack. Though it is not enough to change a situation but it is our moral duty to protest such an incident.

general students. We protest the Vice Chancellor's role regarding the incident. We protest all type of negative student politics as well as

We protest the worst police attack on women hostel and on

teacher's politics. The students and other Bangladeshi people Dresden, Germany

police again charged on them with tear gas and rubber bullet.

very natural. But it should not become an issue in educational