

Outsiders infest DU campus to indulge in indecent acts

TAWFIQUE ALI
.....
While passing through the Dhaka University area in the evening, one may get an impression that the entire campus is a sanctuary for outsiders indulging in obscene acts, creating an embarrassing situation for others.
Such indecent activities damage the sanctity of environment and the image of the institution in absence of a clearly laid down proctorial rule to address the nuisance.
The outsiders are found indulging in bawdy acts at the dark corners on the campus both at daytime and after dusk, embarrassing the teachers, students and guardians.
Usually, couples including school and college students, young professionals and other outsiders infest the campus to spend several hours at the corners of Mall Chattar, Fuller Road, TSC, Kala Bhaban, central library and Shamsunnahar hall areas.
Such an incident put some teachers, attending a meeting at the TSC cafeteria on November 23, in an embarrassing situation. The teachers called TSC Director Alamgir Hossain who asked the couples to go out finding them outsiders.
This correspondent along



DU students are often harassed by police because of the nuisance created by outsiders inside the campus.

with three students, Momin, Mahfuz and Mehedi, in the late evening recently approached such a couple sitting indecently in the dark Mall Chattar. The young man said he resides in Kamalapur and the girl in Bashabo. None of them was DU student.
"Such incidents occur every day on the campus," said Prof AKA Feroz Ahmad, the DU proctor. "We have written to the vice-chancellor conveying our concern over the situation and asked for a policy guideline to check these practices."
Stressing the need for an institutional effort and approach with a policy direction to address the menace, he said: "We have to work out a set of guidelines."
The guidelines have to be drawn up and implemented without restricting the entry of outside people in the university area, he suggested.
"Indecent activities are unacceptable on a university campus," said the TSC director, "There must be a general consensus at the authorities level and awareness among the students to prevent activities that tarnish image of the institution."
"Such social nuisance must not be entertained on the campus," said Dean of Social Sciences Faculty Dr Harun-ar-Rashid, "A sense of insecurity usually daunts general members of the university community to take a stand against it."
He said lack of policy and initiatives of the authorities and inaction of the proctor's office at desired level are responsible for the current situation, he said adding that DU campus must not be viewed as a safe haven for antisocial activities.
Most of those who indulge in indecent activities are outsiders, said Dr Sadrul Amin, the dean of Arts Faculty. "An unfortunate fact is that even a section of teachers oppose when a preventive action is taken against them."
"The campus has turned into a sanctuary of outsiders," said former president of Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique. "It is the outsiders who reign everywhere."
Students of the university usually do not indulge in such kind of indecent acts, he said terming the situation deplorable.
Authorities must address the issue properly in an unbiased manner and the proctorial office has to exercise its authority, Prof Siddique said.
Professor Serajul Islam Choudhury said: "Both academic and cultural pursuits have waned considerably on the campus over the years. The campus will automatically have a decent environment if and when students are engaged in academic and cultural activities keeping the premises busy."
Unsolicited outsiders find

wider access when the premises remain vacant, he said.
Sharp decline in ideals and patriotism at the national level, cultural and moral decline at the social level, frustrations of unemployed youths at personal level, emergence of hedonism and disappearance of collectivism are what have resulted in this kind of situation, said Prof Choudhury.
The menace has taken today's proportion taking advantage of laxity over the time, said the DU Vice-chancellor SMA Faiz. "We are going to place the issue at the syndicate meeting," he said. "The proctor office will be directed to ensure security measures on the campus and address indecency."
Any one on the campus must refrain from indulging in indecent acts, he said.
It is unfortunate that any move undertaken to uphold congenial environment on the campus is often interpreted from a political dimension with the stand of the university community divided, the VC said.

10x3

10x2x

15x3