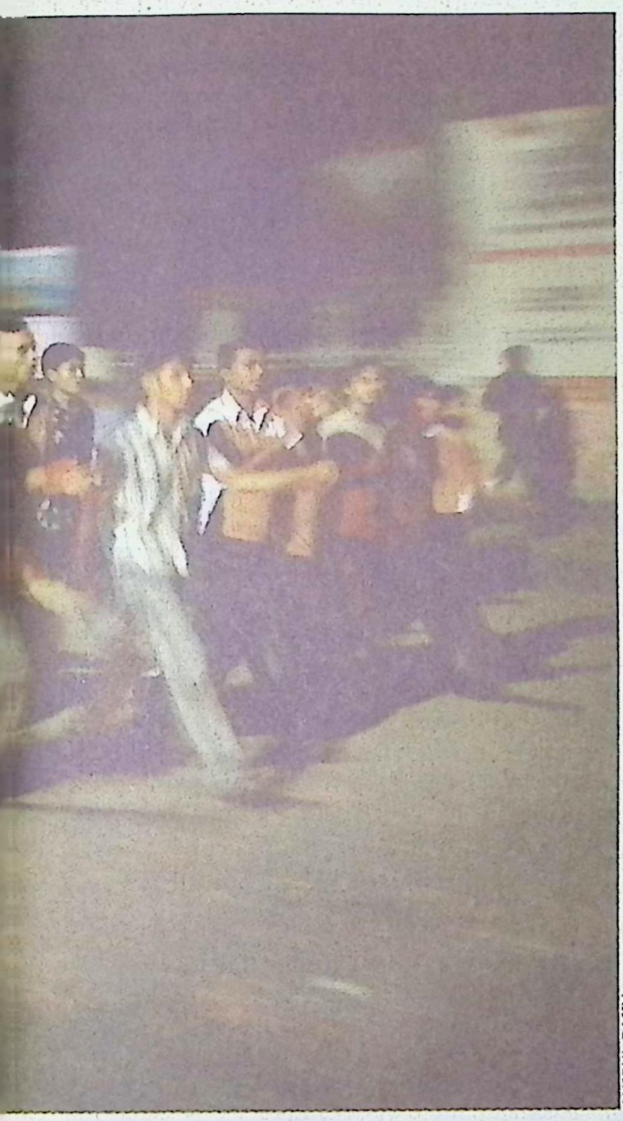


AMIRUL RAJIV

Revolutionary Change

It is widely known that the students at the private universities do their studies peacefully and get degrees within the fixed four years. Indeed, we at NSU were the first university to introduce four-year degrees instead of three-year degrees in the state universities. Such a change, along with the introduction of semester and credit systems that did not normally exist in the state universities (except IBA), revolutionised the educational system of Bangladesh.

The contributions of the private university system are enormous, and several researchers including some in foreign universities have already started assessing the impact of the private university system on the education, employment, human resource development, etc of Bangladesh.

Learning Politics

Students of private universities do learn politics through studies of political science and the political debate system that practically all private universities have. Thus private university students do not lack anything in terms of learning politics. As a result, party politics is not necessary to teach politics to the students.

Should Student Politics be Banned?

The big debate is whether student politics should continue or be banned on the state university campuses. The initial recommendation was to ban student politics for a limited period to get rid of the non-students who generally control student politics of today, and allow time to the real students to settle down in studies.

But this seems to have garnered a negative reaction as many feel that university students have the right to do politics for the purpose of preparing themselves for the future. It is also a fact that only a small number of the students ultimately join politics on completion of studies.

However, knowledge of politics is important even for those who do not join politics. Thus we must find the way to meet all these conditions, as well as allow the students to continue studies without interruptions.

No Political Parties

The best course seems to be to allow those university students who want to do active politics to join directly any political party of their choice. In other words, these students shall be the active members of the country's respective political parties and could work for those parties, but when they return to campus they must engage in studies and will have nothing to do with party politics. This would mean there would be no student political parties on campus, not even in associated form.

It has been proved beyond doubt that these student bodies on campus become the extensions of some of the major political parties of the country, leading to students doing party politics and becoming tools in the hands of the self-interested politicians.

Such student politics have been creating murderous situations on campus. This is why there should be no direct or associated student political bodies on campus. However, those who are interested to do politics during their student life can do so as suggested above.

It is imperative that the political leadership of the country take a firm decision in the matter, keeping in view the interest of the students and also the future of the country. Otherwise, people will make the political parties and their leadership fully responsible for their wrong policies on the future of the students.