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General discussion in JS on terrorism

# End campus violence in public interest

By A Staff Reporter

Jatiya Sangsad members Sunday described the problem of terrorism on the campus a national as well as a political problem and felt that all major political parties who have their student fronts should sit together to solve it.

Participating in a general discussion on, "campus situation," members belonging to both Treasury and Opposition underscored the need for stamping out violence in educational institutions to help democracy get its root deep into Bangladesh soil.

Opposition members during the current session several times demanded that the campus situation be discussed in the House. The discussion remained inconclusive and is expected to resume today (Monday).

Barring Deputy Leader of the House and Education Minister Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, and State Minister for Relief Lutfar

Rahman Khan BKSAL member Abdur Razzak, Awami League members Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury and Nazibul Basar, acting chief of Jatiya Party Parliamentary Group Moudud Ahmed, Jamaat-e-Islami group leader Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, Jamaat member Enamul Huq BNP's Col (retd) Akbar Hossain, Dr Moin Khan and Mrs. Farida Rahman.

Initiating the discussion, Deputy Leader of the House briefly narrated the incidents that led to the closure of major educational institutions including four universities. He called up on all political parties and Jatiya Sangsad members to play their due role in improving the situation in educational institutions.

He said the proud past of the campus and its shameful present had to be equally recognised. He said every guardian wants that his

children attend their studies in a congenial atmosphere and return home safely.

The Deputy Leader advised the members to review the situation in educational institutions in true perspective and through self-analysis. Dr. Chowdhury regretted that many teachers were getting involved in student politics although their main responsibility was to impart education.

Referring to the recent conference of the political parties convened by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for discussing the campus violence, he said a draft declaration was being prepared on the basis of deliberations made there.

The Deputy Leader requested the members to examine if the laws and ordinances relating to the running of universities needed any change in the changed context.

He also said the possibility of the formation of a parliamentary committee to look into campus

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# End campus violence

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problem, may also be considered by the House.

## MOUDUD

Mr Moudud Ahmed said the problem in educational institutions could be solved only through national consensus and unity. He said leaders of major political parties like Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami should sit together to discuss the campus problem. Mr Moudud described the problem as a political issue and said there has to be a short term as well as a long term solution of the problem.

## MENON

Mr Rashed Khan Menon criticised the attempt to put much of the blame for campus terrorism on students and make them non-political and said the issue being a political one should be solved through political means.

Mr Menon also criticised what he said indifferent attitude of the government towards situation in campus. He felt that lapses in the University Order of 1973 can be removed through discussion with the teachers and students.

Minister of State for Relief

Lutfar Rahman Khan said the opposition political parties along with the government have to play an important role to bring an end to terrorism in educational institutions. He called for the boycott of gun-runners on the campus both politically and socially.

Terming terrorism as an obstacle to democracy, BKSAL member Razzak called upon the BNP government to come forward to eliminate terrorism from the society, including from the educational institutions.

He said student organisations engaged in terrorism should be banned. He also called upon the teachers to come forward to free the campus from terrorism.

Participating in the discussion, Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami said democracy and terrorism could not run side by side.

Calling for taking lessons from history, Mr Nizami said none should give shelter to the terrorists. He said he believed that no political party or students organisations wanted terrorism.

## AKBAR HOSSAIN

Akbar Hossain (BNP-Comilla)

said terrorism in the Dhaka university campus had actually started in 1973 with the killing of seven students in Mohsin Hall. The trouble had then begun with the hijacking of the ballot papers, he added.

He was of the view that terrorism was born when democratic way was blocked.

Selim said terrorism in the campus is a very serious matter and evil forces could take advantage of the situation to kill democracy in their old style.

Stressing the need for curbing terrorism in the campus at all costs, he said terrorists, had no identity except that they were known for their act of terrorism, and urged all to shun partisan interest in tackling this problem.

Mr Selim said "Obhi-Niru" were known terrorists but they sought political shelter when expelled from Chhatra Dal. As such, he said, terrorists had no political affiliation and they were guided by their own interest. Where are the killers "Chunnu"? He asked and called for soul-searching.

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