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Ershad for peaceful DUCSU elections

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad on Saturday stressed the need for peaceful holding of elections to the Dhaka University Central Students Union and Hall Unions scheduled for June 6, reports UNB.

"It has to be ensured that the elections in Dhaka University are held in proper and peaceful atmosphere", the President told a meeting of the Vice Chancellors at his office.

Presided over by the President himself the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed who is in-charge of Education Ministry, President's Adviser Mansoor Ali Sarker and Chairman of the University Grants Commission Prof Syed Ali Ahsan.

The President, who is also the Chancellor of the Universities said he had directed the administration to help the university authorities in maintaining peace and discipline in the campus.

He expressed the hope that the new Vice-Chancellor Prof Mohiruzzaman Mia, who is regarded as non-partisan, would succeed in restoring peace in the campus.

"Let us hope and pray that no more lives are lost due to political rivalries in the campus," the President said.

However, President Ershad repeated his concern over the consequences of the students politics saying it could not bring any good to the country.

Student politics cannot be stopped immediately as opposition political parties did not come forward, the President added.

The President regretted May 28 incident in Chittagong University in which at least seven students were stabbed in clashes among rival groups. Despite this, the university was not closed because "we are all trying to keep the university classes running", Ershad said.

He referred to the two major steps he had taken— compulsory primary education from January next and the campaign for population control and asked the Vice-Chancellors to suggest appropriate ways and means for making his plans a success.

"I want to see literacy rate increased to 50 per cent and the population growth declined to 1·2