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DU team meets Shahabuddin

Govt urged to free campus of arms

An eight-member delegation of the Dhaka University Syndicate, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. Muniruzzaman Miah, Saturday apprised Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed of the situation facing the university due to continuous presence of arms and fierce rivalry between student fronts in the campus, reports BSS.

The members of the delegation said recurrence of violent activities by the rival student fronts had vitiated the academic atmosphere to the detriment of national interest.

They met the Acting President, who is also the Chancellor of the universities, at the President's Secretariat in Dhaka, and urged the Government to take immediate measures for freeing the campus of illegal arms.

They said political parties could help reduce rivalry and tension between student organisations and urged the Acting President to convene a grand meeting of political parties for obtaining a pledge from them against arming their respective students fronts.

They blamed the police's indeference during the recent incidents of exchange of fire between rival stu-

dent fronts in the university campus. They said the police should have acted on their own to stem the violence.

The Acting President agreed with the delegation that campus must free from violence but disagreed with their views that the police were indifferent at the time of the violent activities of the students in the campus.

He reminded the delegation that the police have to take all steps in the campus in consultations with the university authorities and that the police are to exercise utmost restraint in such matters.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed said firm actions are necessary to stem violence, but expressed doubts whether all quarters would extend whole-hearted support and cooperation to the police if such extreme measures are taken.

He said he would consider the suggestion of the delegation for calling a grand meeting of the political parties seeking their cooperation.

The delegation included, among others, pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. Wakil Ahmed and President of Dhaka University Teachers Association Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhury.