

Govt ready to ban student politics: Hasina

Shoot at sight order if consensus reached

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said her government is ready to ban student politics and order police to shoot at sight the armed terrorists to be free campus from terrorism, reports UNB.

Making the major announcement in Parliament on Tuesday, she said, "I know it will be a very tough step... But if there is consensus among BNP, Members of Parliament, intellectuals, journalists and people as well, we can order police to shoot at sight the illegal arms holders on campus".

The Prime Minister spoke of her

strong desire replying to a supplementary from Dr Rustam Ali Farazi (Jatiya Party-Pirojpur) during the PM's question time.

Responding to Farazi, who quoted President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's appeal to political parties to ban their student wings in educational institutions, Hasina said, "I've no objection, if all parties agree".

The Prime Minister said she is also ready to sit with all political parties and take any step whatsoever to root out terrorism from campus.

She sought a specific statement from the Leader of the Opposition

on her proposal.

"Let her come to the House and give her opinion about taking instant step against the illegal arms holders on campus and if necessary, shoot them at sight".

About terrorism by the student wings of the two major parties, Hasina said Awami League has already set example that it did not support or patronise any terrorists.

"We've no student front. As per the party constitution, Awami League has no front organisation of students", she said, adding that the BNP's party constitution endorses the student front.

On the President's proposal to ban student politics in educational institutions, the Prime Minister said "if the President wants, I am ready to extend all my support to him".

In this context, Hasina mentioned that while in opposition she banned the activities of Chhatra League in educational institutions and had requested the then premier Begum Khaleda Zia to follow the same, but there was no response from her.

Amidst thumping of desks by the Treasury Bench members, the Prime Minister said, "My politics does not depend on student organisation. We rely on the strength of the people..."