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Govt sincerity in ending campus violence questioned

By A Staff Reporter

Three Awami League MPs at a joint Press conference Sunday evening alleged that the government was not sincere in its desire to eradicate campus violence.

They said government was forced to constitute a Special Parliamentary Committee on Campus Violence under pressure from the Opposition. Government actually did not want the committee to produce any good, they said.

The fifteen-member Parliamentary Committee on Campus Violence include five MPs from Awami League. The committee met for the last time on November 10.

Among the Awami League MPs, Mohammad Nasim, Tofayel Ahmed and Matia Chowdhury attended the Press conference on

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Sunday. One of the five Awami League MPs is now abroad and another one is sick.

Awami League Organising Secretary Tofayel Ahmed said the suggestions put forward by Opposition MPs drew no favourable support from the ruling party. Rather, it acted on the basis of partisan outlook.

He said Sheikh Hasina had announced suspension of Chhatra League activities on Dhaka University but the ruling party refrained from taking similar measure.

"We suggested to suspend all students union elections in the country for few months to avoid violence on the campuses" he said adding that the ruling party carried on the elections at different colleges to gain control by means of tricks.

The election activities at different colleges flared up fresh violence, he said.

He assured that terrorists must be treated as mere criminals irrespective of party affiliations. His party would welcome action against miscreants if they are found in his organisation, he said.

Mr. Tofayel Ahmed mentioned the names of some accused persons and alleged that they were being sheltered by ruling party ministers.

He also quoted police officials as saying interference were there on them in performing duties against miscreants and terrorists.

He also informed that foreign

donors were seriously anxious with the prevailing law and order situation in the country.

He accused the government of failure in taking effective measures against deteriorating law and order situation.

He however mentioned the situation could be handled successfully through collective initiatives of the government and the Opposition as they restored parliamentary form in the country through collective efforts.

Speaking on the occasion, Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Party, said the statements were made by the three Awami League MPs only to inform the people about the situation. It could have been made in the parliament at this time if the parliament would have been in session, he said.

Mrs Matia Chowdhury alleged that the government was harassing the Opposition workers by using law enforcing agencies and suppressing their activities by using armed hooligans.