

VCs urge immediate steps to stem campus violence

By A Staff Reporter

Several former Vice-Chancellors of different universities Wednesday expressed concern over the fact that no concrete steps had yet been taken to stop campus violence despite highest level discussions on his issue.

They said immediate initiatives are needed to contain violences in educational institutions. Otherwise, the situation will go beyond control, they warned.

The former Vice-Chancellors taking part in a discussion meeting on campus violence called upon the government, political parties, students, teachers, guardians and all concerned to make sincere ef-

orts to end violences in educational institutions.

Organised by Liberty Forum at the United National Information Centre (UNIC) the discussion meeting was chaired by Prof. M. Innas Ali, former Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, Convenor of the forum delivered the note of welcome. Prof. M. Sham-sul Haq, Chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) and former Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof Syed Ali Ahsan, former Chairman of UGC and former Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury, Former

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. M.A. Naser, former Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Prof. M.A. Bari, former Chairman of UGC and former Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University, Prof. Kamaluddin, Prof. Moslehuddin and Prof. A.K.M. Aminul Haq former Vice-Chancellors of Bangladesh Agricultural University, Dr. Syed Ali Ashraf, Project Director of Darul Ihsan, journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury and Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) member Rafiqul Islam Jaglu took part in the discussion.

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Prof Ahsan said both government and political parties are responsible for campus violences. He said unrest in educational institutions should be identified as the major problem facing the nation and problem should be solved immediately.

Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury said the Chancellor of the Universities has failed to take any step to solve the crisis in Chittagong University though he assured of necessary measures within 15 days. He wanted to know how a Vice-Chancellor could be found guilty of instigating violences by a judicial enquiry commission. He said the Education Ministry has failed to take any step to reopen the academic institutions which have been closed due to violence.

Prof. M.A. Naser said violence on the campus is imposed from outside. He said the political parties should decide to expel armed people from their student organs. He said the government is not taking bold action against armed terrorism fearing further deterioration of the situation.

Prof. M.A. Bari said no action programme to eradicate violence has been formulated as yet though the problem was discussed at vari-

ous levels. He said the University Act 1973 should be reviewed to restore academic atmosphere. He observed that appointments of teachers in the universities are not made in the proper way now-a-days.

Prof. Bari said the university administration is too much busy with the trouble-maker two per cent students that it cannot give attention to the development and well-being of the rest 98 per cent general students.

Dr. Moslehuddin said police cannot take action against terrorist students because of their connection with powerful quarters.

Dr. Kamaluddin said teachers have little to do on the campus. So they do politics with the students. He said some people have become university teachers who should not have been teachers at all. He suggested that the University Act 1973 should be reviewed and revised to stop politics by teachers.

Prof. Fazlul Halim Chowdhury said the political parties pursue the politics of hatred and intolerance and this influences their students organs. He said 98 per cent of the students are peace-loving. He said if the government is sincere in its efforts to restore academic atmosphere the educational institutions can be freed of arms within 24

hours.

Prof. Chowdhury said the Vice-Chancellor of the university is a "great orphan". He (VC) has nothing to face the armed terrorists, he said.

Prof. Innas Ali said the government has the prime responsibility to check campus violence. He said the people and the political parties can help the government restore campus peace.

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