

Cooperation from teachers, guardians sought

Root out terrorism from campus: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday sought active cooperation of all concerned quarters including the guardians and teachers to root out terrorism from the campuses, maintain academic atmosphere and ensure a high standard of education, reports BSS.

She was exchanging views with the guardians and teachers of the universities of

Dhaka, Jahangirnagar and BUET at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Dhaka.

The Prime Minister urged the guardians and teachers to perform their social duties for curbing terrorism, ensuring a high standard of education and developing our children as worthy citizens of the country.

The guardians and the teachers had a free and fruitful exchange of views with the Prime Minister about the standard of education, campus terrorism and ensuring congenial atmosphere in the educational arena.

At the meeting, which lasted for about three hours, the Prime Minister and the guardians and the teachers expressed identical views that the terrorism must be eradicated and all problems on way to the high standard of education be removed through collective efforts of all quarters.

The Prime Minister said the objective of education was not

only to provide certificates to the students but to develop them properly so that they could lead the nation.

The representatives of the National Guardian's Association suggested, among other things, ensuring timely admission and start of classes in the universities, colleges and schools; holding examinations timely, introduction of class tests, forging a national consensus on maintaining peace on the campuses, non-distribution of seats on party basis, restrictions on the stay of outsiders in halls and bar on the teachers' active politics.

The guardians and teachers, while exchanging views, also suggested among other things, necessary modification of the 1973 University Ordinance, sterner actions against the terrorists and formation of special police squad to ensure academic atmosphere in the educational institutions.

The Prime Minister said the university authorities should

also try harder enforce discipline and resolutely apply their set rules towards curbing campus violence. In this connection, she suggested actions against the outsiders in the campus and introduction of roll call system at the residential halls.

Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Mohammad Shahjahan and a number of university teachers and guardians took part in the three-hour long meet. State Minister for Education Yunus Khan was also present.

The Prime Minister said that terrorism was not a personal concern only but it was a concern for all us.

Begum Zia underlined the need for working out solutions to this social malaise through a series of discussions between the government, political parties, teachers and guardians.

The Prime Minister said that her government would encourage specific suggestions from the teachers and students in this regard. She also said a national education policy could be adopted in consultation with all concerned including the teachers and guardians.

Among those who participated in the discussion were Dr. A.M.A. Zaman, President of National Guardians Association, Mr. AKM Emdadul Huq, General Secretary of the association, Mr. Abdur Rahim Chowdhury, a guardian, Mr. Imamuddin, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University, Mr. Mahbub Anam, a guardian, Mr. Anwarul Afzal, a guardian, Mr. Zainul Abedin Khan, a

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PM seeks cooperation

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guardian, Mr. NI Khan, a guardian, Mr. Enamul Huq Khan, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University, Mr. Obaidur Rahman, a teacher of Jahangirnagar University, Mr. Aminur Rahman, a guardian and Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, a guardian.

Mr. Mahbub Anam, Editor of *The Bangladesh Times*, lauded the democratic government for its management of vital national issues by consensus. He said this process was good for the progress of democracy.

Mr. Anam said the police were aware of the sources of illegal arms on the campuses and they

should without fear and favour haul up the guilty persons.

The *Bangladesh Times* Editor also pleaded for separate security forces for the universities as is seen in many countries.

Prof. Emazuddin Ahmed said all efforts to ensure academic atmosphere, standard of education and remove session jam would turn into failures if terrorism could not be wiped out.

He said the university authorities had suggested that the law enforcing agencies needed no prior permission to deal with the terrorists in the campus.

Mr. Anwarul Afzal called for formation of a committee headed by a judge to identify the causes of campus violence and

suggest remedial measures.

Mr. Zainul Abedin Khan urged the political parties to demonstrate their good intention in curbing campus violence.

Mr. Enamul Huq Khan suggested stern actions against the terrorists after their identification. Proper planning, he said, should be formulated to introduce research-oriented education.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar said the present government had taken steps to ensure standard of education, timely holding of examinations and publishing results.

He informed that 5,500 pri-

mary school teachers would be recruited within two months. The Prime Minister reminded the guardians and teachers of their greater responsibilities to the children and students and urged them to properly guide their children so that they could not be misled.

She said her government was ready to sit again with the political parties, teachers and guardians to find out a lasting solution to terrorism and maintain congenial academic atmosphere.

About the illegal arms, the Prime Minister said all quarters should help the law enforcing agencies to recover the illegal arms.