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Campus terrorism has declined significantly: Sadique

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday said the campus terrorism has been drastically checked since 1996 as a result of various measures taken by the government, reports BSS.

"The reduction of terrorism on the campus is the outcome of government's legal measures to curb terrorism," he told a seminar held to discuss the results of a research titled — "Quality of Education and Campus Violence: Case Studies of Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities," organised by the Foundation for Research on Educational Planning and Development (FREPD).

Chaired by president of FREPD and National Professor Muhammad Shamsul Huq, the function was addressed by Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, former vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, Director General of Bangla

Academy Prof Anwar Hossain and vice-president of FREPD Dr Gazi Saleh Ahmed.

Dr Gazi Kholikuzzaman Ahmad presented the research papers in which he said terrorism has been reduced substantially since 1996 on the campus although most of the respondents in the research findings observed that there is no role of the government in curbing campus terrorism.

The research paper said over the past-three years the incidents of violence have significantly declined in both Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities. It said in DU the number of both severe and not-so-severe violent episodes declined to 19 (12 major and 7 minor) during the seven-month period from July 1998 to January 1999. The number had steadily increased from 84 (27 major, 57 minor) in 1993/94 to 104 (32 major, 72 minor) in 1994/95 and to 126 (53 major and 73 minor) in 1995/96, but after that it declined steadily to 85 (28 major, 57 minor) in 1996/97, the re-

search said.

Criticising those who gave their opinion in the research paper that the government and the authorities did nothing to curb terrorism, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury asked how the number of violent acts could decline significantly in the DU and RU if the government and the university authorities had not taken any measures.

The reality is that violence on the campus has gone down, he said adding those questioned about the role of the government and the university authorities had actually given their observation from their experience of the last 10 years.