

National Committee on Campus Violence submits report

# No mercy to terrorists

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Terrorists stalking the country's universities should be detained without bail and no one should be allowed to protest police action against them, not even in newspapers through statements.

These drastic measures were recommended by the National Committee on campus violence in its report submitted to Minister for Education Zamiruddin Sircar yesterday (Thursday).

It suggested raising of campus police, 'officered by top policemen with responsibilities,' and equipped adequately to deal with the terrorists.

Anyone having any grievances against police action against terrorists could lodge complaints

with higher authorities. Investigation should be carried out immediately and complaints should be disposed of properly, the report said.

To curtail freedom of the terrorists on the campuses, the Committee suggested amendments to laws, rules and regulations governing the universities, including the University Act of 1973, as well as barring teachers from tinkering in students politics.

The students must attend their classes, having a minimum of 75 percent attendance, to be eligible for appearance in examination, unless they had justified grounds, it said.

At the sametime, the teachers must take their classes regularly as well as 'show their attendance

even when classes are not being held,' the Committee noted while suggesting adequate measures to ensure this.

On student politics, it opined that the parliament should frame a code of conduct, 'keeping an eye that they do not become lackeys of political parties.'

No slogans or demonstrations should be allowed during the classes or in the corridors. The statutes regarding student discipline should be reformed, the halls of residence of students should be administered as per rules, being enforced strictly. The Rules, if necessary, should be reformed as well to prevent entry of outsiders, including 'guests' who should be barred from staying in the dormitories until the situation improves, the report said.

On the management of the universities, the report suggested that it should be revamped to make it upto date. There should be a system of accountability from the highest level to the bottom rung of the management, it opined.

On teachers status it suggested that in order to attract the best talents, the present system of promotions should be abolished, replaced by new positions.

But it strongly recommended prohibiting teachers' participation in student politics directly or indirectly. They should not be allowed to attend meetings, functions or cultural activities related to student politics.

To discourage 'toll' collection and procurement of arms etc, the

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committee suggested stern actions as well as proper steps to prove jobs to the students on completion of their studies.

On the students' education the committee made certain recommendations like abolition of current practice of allowing students remain regular students after earning a degree.

They could take another degree as irregulars, without voting rights in student union elections. Neither they should be allowed to stay in halls or be office bearers of student unions, it observed.

Formed in July after bloody battles between rival student groups that saw closure of nearly one hundred educational institutions including universities, some like the Dhaka University twice, the committee's recommendations are likely to be the basis of future actions to tame the unruly campuses.

Its report is going to be presented to a parliamentary committee formed to curb the menace of violence on the campuses soon, authoritative sources said.

The committee included Kazi Saleh Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University; Latful Hye Shibly, Pro-VC, Rajshahi University; Prof. Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Aziz Khan, former VC of Chittagong University; L K Siddiqi, MP, Ammanullah Aman, MP and Vice-President of DUCSU, Julmat Ali Khan, Dr Kamrul Hossain, Reazuddin Ahmed, President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and two officials from the ministries of Education and Home.