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Stricter laws against source of arms envisaged JS body to recommend steps to curb campus violence

Education Minister Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury on Monday proposed in the Jatiya Sangsad formation of 15 member Parliamentary Committee to recommend measures for curbing terrorism on the campus, reports BSS.

Winding up the two-day debate on the campus violence, he said the All-party committee headed by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz could look into all aspects of the matter like the sources of arms in the educational institutions, enactment of stricter laws for punishment against exertion of toll and pledges, by the political parties not to harbour hoodlums.

It is a national problem, it needs to be resolved unitedly by all, he said after many members from both Treasury and Opposition Benches took part in the discussions on Sunday and Monday.

The Education Minister, who is also the Deputy Leader of the House, said that the proposed Parliamentary Committee, among other things, could also consider formation of a campus police of similar law enforcing agency for the campus since some Vice-Chancellors were hesitant to ask police to enter the University area to quell disturbances.

Prof. Chowdhury said soul-searching is necessary for peace and tranquility on the campus since a section of political leadership patronise the hotheads of arms for their own purpose.

He called for sincere efforts on the part of all so that the campus could

be freed from violence for the sake of the nation and future generation.

The Education Minister dwelt at length on the campus violence and the situation in the Chittagong University, including the impression of his recent visit there. He said the house would welcome any joint declaration by five parties not to harbour the hotheads of arms and make every effort to curb terrorism on the campus.

About the situation in the Chittagong University, he said leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami Parliamentary Party in the House, Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, had just sent him a letter that the students (Supporters of Mr. Nizami's party) would withdraw their programmes there in view of the assurances given by the Education Minister.

Prof. Chowdhury said the "assurance" that he had given to students in the Chittagong University was that

the Sangsad would consider a number of issues relating to campus violence.

Tracing the history of "terrorism", Prof. Chowdhury said it was not entirely a political problem and attributed several factors to this condition.

Terrorism existed even in advanced countries and such terrorism could be discerned even in international arena, he said.

Violence in the educational institutions in this country began the Pakistani days. Terrorism was there. The campus after the independence due to displacement of arms used during the Liberation War.

The violence on the campus existed to a much lesser scale during the time of late Ziaur Rahman but later escalated, he said.

Prof. Chowdhury said social unrest, growing despondency, limited scope

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