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DU V-C tells guardians

Parties must stop sheltering terrorists to end violence

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Maniruzzaman Mia today said the campus violence cannot be rooted out unless the political parties were sincere in not sheltering terrorists in their respective party folds, reports BSS.

Addressing a guardians rally at the TSC auditorium of the Dhaka University, the Vice-Chancellor said the campus violence is a political one and

it can only be solved politically.

"The conception of a university is such that a Vice-Chancellor does not keep arms with him or has any armed bodyguard, so how can he check the violence in the campus?", he asked.

The guardians' rally was organised by Jatiya Abhibhabak Samity to drum up support for reopening the closed educational institutions and stopping campus violence.

Presided over by the President of the organisation, Dr. A.M.A. Zaman, the rally was also addressed by Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, Khondaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, Prof. Shahadat Ali, Dr. Abdul Baten Khan, M.A. Mohaimen and Advocate A.K.M. Emdadul Huq, General Secretary of the Abhibhabak Samity.

Prof. Maniruzzaman Mia said it was very clear who were controlling the arms holders and what was the purpose behind it.

The political parties wanted to command authorities over the campus by patronising terrorists for mere political reason, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor said he was present in the visitors' gallery of the Parliament on the first day of the debate on campus violence and regretted that not a single MP uttered that if any student worker of his organisation were linked with violence, he would be expelled from the party.

The Vice-Chancellor said, "we must think whether we are practising democracy in our behaviour and manner or not".

He called upon the guardians to create awareness that a political party cannot dare to shelter armed "mastaan" in their folds.

He also assured the audience that the closed Dhaka University would be opened soon.

Barrister Ishtiaq said the democratic system was endangered as the violence was engulfing the educational institutions of the country.

He said unless the political parties have contained the terrorists of their respective front organisations, they were bound to fail in establishing democratic norms in the society.

"The days are not far off when we (See Page 10 Col. 5)

Parties must

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shall have to be united and vocal against this new autocracy", he predicted.

Khondaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed called upon the political parties to reach a consensus for flushing out terrorism from the educational arena.

"If the political parties were sincere, I think the problem will exist no more", he said.

Mr. Shamsul Huq Chowdhury said the political parties must have confidence in people, they should not rely on the students to go to power or cling to it.

He said the teachers and student leaders who were co-operating with the terrorists must be identified and exposed.

In his presidential speech, Dr. Zaman said, "if we want to eliminate terrorism from the campus, everybody must react rationally and behave democratically".

The rally adopted a nine-point resolution for opening the closed 89 educational institutions immediately and for curbing campus violence.