

Unscheduled debate on Sunday's DU incident

By A Staff Reporter

Another round of unscheduled heated debate, initiated by Awami League members, on Sunday's violent incident on Dhaka University campus marked the proceedings of the Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday.

The debate participated by Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad and JP Parliamentary leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed and JSD Member Shahjahan Siraj, was full of accusations and counter accusations.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali tried in vain to impress upon the Leader of the Opposition several times that the House had already full-length discussion on the DU incident Monday.

The Speaker, who appeared helpless during the debate, later regretted the tendency among the Members to reopen issues violating rules of procedures. "I don't know under which rule, the proceedings of the House is going on. It is very difficult to run the affairs of the House. The Leader of the

Opposition has made a statement, but I don't know under which rule she has done it. If I don't allow her to speak, allegation is made both inside and outside the House, that she is not allowed to speak" the Speaker said.

After the Question Hour session, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina taking the floor delivered her statement.

As the Leader of the Opposition resumed her seat, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury

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took the floor and delivered a measured and non-provocative statement in which he reiterated his proposal made earlier to the Leader of the Opposition that leaders of all political parties discuss the campus problem and issue a joint statement. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad also reciprocated the sentiment expressed by the Home Minister.

Speaking next, Deputy Leader of the House, Dr. Badruddoza Chowdhury questioned the logic behind reopening the issue which was discussed at length in the House only a couple of days back. He thought the heat generated by the debate would only help campus terrorism. Sheikh Hasina taking floor again in a clear departure from the sentiment expressed by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, tagged a condition to the Home Minister's proposal for a joint statement. She demanded

that prior to such statement, the Prime Minister would have to admit that she has failed to run the administration despite having full executive authority under 12th Amendment.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, speaking next contradicted a claim by Leader of the Opposition that Radio and TV have been made partisan. Information Minister's counter attack threw Awami League Members on their toes protesting vehemently. Undisturbed by the shouts from Awami League Members, Barrister Huda finished his brief but forceful statement and resumed his seat.

Speaking next, JSD Member Shahjahan Siraj made a fervent appeal that a joint statement by all political parties be issued by tomorrow. He feared that something terrible might happen next week in Dhaka University.

JP leader Moudud Ahmed said as both Awami League and BNP accusing each other for campus violence, the nation is in the grip of a great crisis. He said the special parliamentary committee formed on campus violence must place before the Parliament specific recommendations to end the problem. He, however, said the primary responsibility of combating campus terrorism should be shouldered by the government.

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