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VC's appeal

Maintain campus peace

Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed appealed to different political parties and all concerned quarters to play constructive and supportive role with a spirit of patience, tolerance and fellow-feelings for maintaining the congenial atmosphere for education in the Dhaka University, reports BSS.

In a statement the Vice-Chancellor narrated the incidents that took place on the campus during the last few days and said that a number of students were injured, affected and arrested in a undesirable incident on January 31. "As a guardian this incident was very painful to me," he added.

He said on that day a clash occurred with the police centering programme of a student organisation and it eventually spread to Jagannath and Salimullah Halls. Gun battle with the police and explosion of crackers continued for a long time and at one stage police entered into Jagannath Hall, beat up the inmates, and arrested a good number of students and outsiders. About 30 persons were injured and 32 rooms were ransacked. Later the police entered into Salimullah Hall and arrested a few persons. Many innocent and ordinary students, not involved in terrorist activities, were subjected to police torture. It was painful and condemnable, he added.

Prof Ahmed said the University authorities have made all arrangements for the treatment of the wounded students and help for the affected. Arrangement has also been

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Campus peace

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made for the release of the arrested students and in the meantime it has secured the release of 36, he said.

The Vice-Chancellor further said that a situation of political confrontation was created centering the inauguration of a book fair at the Bangla Academy on February 1. A programme was announced to resist the Prime Minister's visit on the one hand and a programme was also taken to welcome her on the other, he said.

In this connection he made it clear that the Bangla Academy is an autonomous organisation. Excepting its proximity to the Dhaka University it has no institutional link with the academy, yet a confrontational situation erupted on the campus in connection with the Prime Minister's visit to the Bangla Academy and consequently terrorist activities increased on the campus, he added.

Prof. Ahmed said gun battle and explosion of crackers took place on the campus on Sunday between the 2 student organisations following the atmosphere of heat and clashes. This incident has seriously affected the overall atmosphere on the campus which was not at all desirable, he observed.

Referring to the spectre of terrorism and session jam that engulfed the Dhaka University, the Vice-Chancellor said these have been mostly overcome during the last two to three years with the sincere efforts of students and teachers and signifi-

cant progress has been made. He pointed out that the academic programmes have been revised and reformed to eliminate terrorism from the campus. With the introduction of the academic calendar the session jam has almost gone and were expecting that it would go forever within a period of next six months, he said.

He said terrorism and the propensity against law and order were on the rise in a various social sectors as a fallout of political clashes in the national life. In the midst of such happenings the academic programme of the university was being carried out smoothly. Side by side, the student organisations have been carrying out their programmes in an atmosphere of democratic and peaceful co-existence. In the backdrop of such an atmosphere an undesirable incident took place on the campus on January 31 in which a good number of students were injured, affected and arrested, he said.