

# JS committee to deal with campus violence proposed

The Jatiya Sangsad resumed its sitting at 11.23 am Sunday with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair. The day's proceeding began after recitation from the holy Quran, reports BSS.

After disposing of the special privilege notices, the Speaker said campus situation would be discussed in the House Sunday.



**Tofael Ahmed**

Taking the floor, Tofael Ahmed (AL-Bhola) proposed that the guide-line for the discussion should come from the Treasury Bench. The Deputy Leader of the House and Education and Cultural Affairs Minister Prof A.Q.M. Badruddoza Chowdhury said the problems in the educational institutions had become a national problem. "We must take a final decision in this regard after a thorough discussion to tackle the problem," he said.

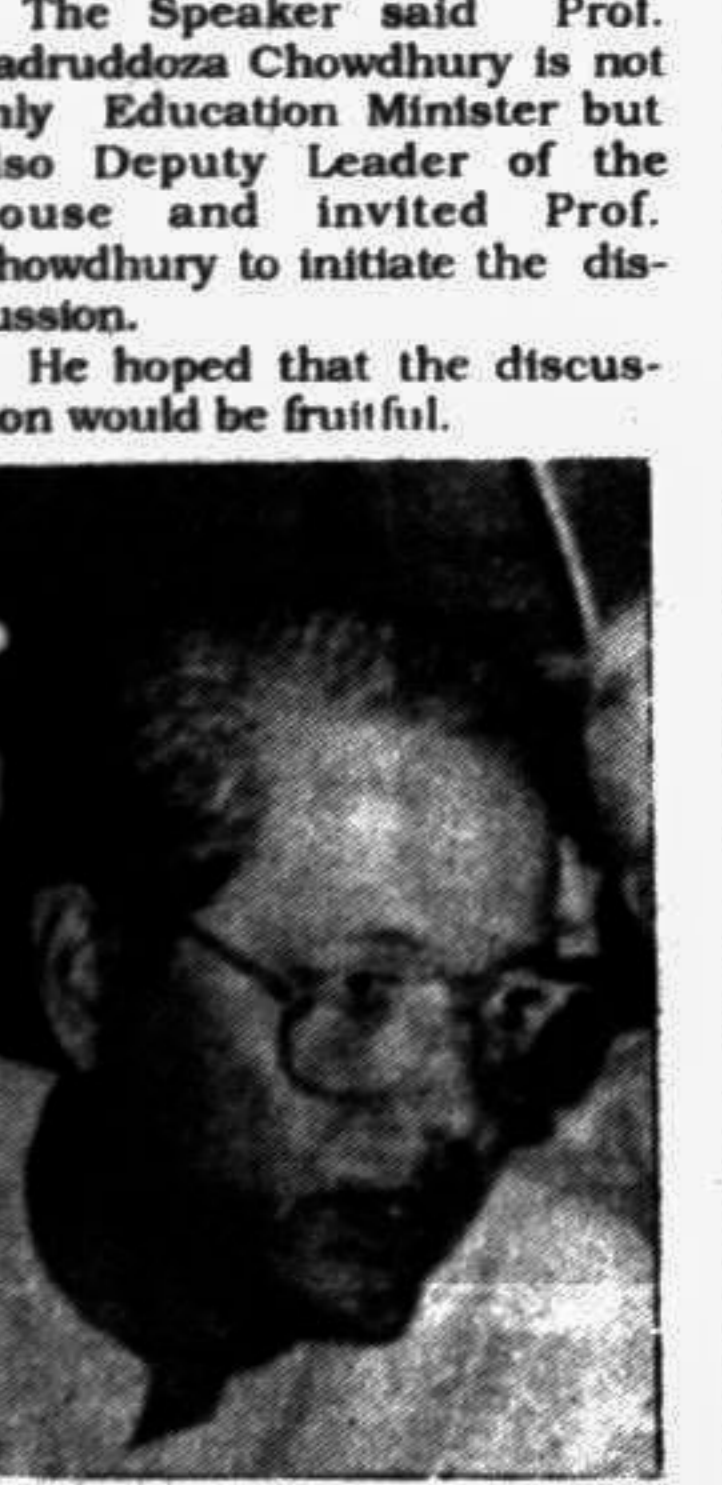
Referring to the temperament of the House Sunday, the Speaker said the atmosphere of amity, observed during the passage of the 11th and 12th Constitution Amendment Bills, has been still prevailing. Rising again, Tofael Ahmed said, "we want real solution to the campus problems, we do not want to take part in the discussion only for the sake of discussion."



**Matur Rahman Nizami**

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami said, as the campus situation is a national issue, we want to discuss it with an open mind.

**Shamsul Huq** (AL-Mymensingh) said the Prime Minister, who is holding the charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs, should be present in the House at this moment as the improvement of law and order depends on her action. The Speaker said Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury is not only Education Minister but also Deputy Leader of the House and invited Prof. Chowdhury to initiate the discussion. He hoped that the discussion would be fruitful.



**Badruddoza Chowdhury**

Initiating the discussion on the situation in the educational institutions, the Deputy Leader of the House and Education Minister Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury threw some light on what was happening in the campuses. He said it was a happy augury for all of us that the issue would be discussed at a time when the Sangsad was becoming sovereign and a government accountable to the Sangsad was in the offing. He said we all have to play our due role keeping this point uppermost in our mind while taking part in the discussion on the situation in the educational institutions. He said the proud past of the campus and its shameful present had to be equally recognised he said the creation of a congenial atmosphere in the educational area should be the Prime aim so

that the students could be shaped up as worthy future citizens. The Education Minister said, we would have to admit everything and also own the shame and crime involved in it. The causes of the problems must be exposed. He said adding the process exchange of words might even take place between us while deliberating on the issue.

Prof. Chowdhury said the scheduled election of the Dhaka University could not be held due to violence in the campus. He said examinations after examinations were being shifted causing session jam and hampering education on the students. As a result he said the age of the students for employment was also lapsing. He said many teachers were getting involved in student politics although their main responsibility was to impart education.

The Education Minister said the normal function of Vice-Chancellor was to supervise education of the students but he said he (VC) had to keep himself busy in curbing violence in the campus. He said the happenings in the Rajshahi University which had marred the atmosphere of the campus could not be the desire of anyone in the country.

He said the situation prevailing in the Chittagong University had a long history. He said it was not a situation involving arms only, rather it was a matter concerning stipe political rivalry. He said the situation in the Mymensingh Agriculture University originated from a television programme on late President Ziaur Rahman which turned into an armed clash.

Prof. Chowdhury said the future of Bangladesh depended on agriculture because 56 percent of the Gross Domestic Production (GDP) came from this sector. He said similar things were happening in Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Mymensingh Medical College, Salimullah, Medical College and Dhaka Medical College, and as a result all these institutions were closed now. He said, we would have to find the actual reasons of the campus violence.

Referring to the recent conference of the political parties called by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for discussing the campus violence, he said a draft declaration was being prepared on the basis of the deliberations made there. He said political slogans were noticed when campus violence took place. He said slogan-chanting persons were found to be both students and non-students.

He said many lives were lost in the campus violence and many received injuries. The Education Minister said there were some laws and ordinances for running the universities. He said the discussion should centre on whether the laws and ordinances framed and formulated some 20 years ago needed change in the changed context. He said our main objective should be establishment of peace on the campus. He said we have our responsibilities which should be performed in right earnest. He said the House had also responsibility in this regard. He submitted to the chair to see whether a parliamentary committee could be entrusted with the responsibility of dealing with violence on the campus. He cited the example of such committees in the United States to deal with important matters. The Deputy Leader of the House also urged the chair to fix time but for the discussion so that it could proceed towards a fruitful conclusion.

Abdur Razzak

The Speaker gave the floor to Abdur Razzak (BAKSAL-Shariatpur) to initiate discussion on the situation in the educational arena. Abdur Razzak said when the nation was heading toward establishing a democratic, parliamentary form of government by ousting the autocratic regime, apprehensions had appeared in the minds of the people due to terrorism. Razzak said terrorism got its roots from the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman. Supply of arms began in the university after this killing, he said adding that people know from where these arms come. He said he did not like to face terrorism with counter-terrorism. He called for stopping politics of conspiracy and coup for giving institutional shape to democracy, he said they should be sure that none could capture power on the plea of a "special circumstance."

The BAKSAL member called for plugging the sources of arms for stopping politics of terrorism. Terrorism would not be stopped if we fail to stop politics of killing, he said we could not think of terrorism free politics without trial of the killings of Bangabandhu, four national leaders and Ziaur Rahman. Referring to the statement of the Education Minister, Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak said some people engaged themselves in terrorism with formal announcement while others without announcement. Citing the incidents of Jagannath University College, Chittagong University and Fatikchhari, Razzak said terrorism would not be stopped there. The Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University could not come out of his house. He said terrorism had spread even to the upazila level colleges today. Abdur Razzak said the guardians of the students passed their time in anxiety till their words returned home. As a result, many of the guardians were sending their sons and daughters abroad, he said. He said members of this House had to assure the nation that terrorism would be eliminated from the society and all would work unitedly for bringing an end to this course. Terming terrorism as an obstacle to democracy, Razzak called upon the BNP government to come forward to eliminate terrorism from the society, including from the educational institutions. He said student organisations engaged in terrorism should be banned. He also called upon the teachers to come forward to face the campus from terrorism.

**Shahjahan Omar** As soon as Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami concluded his speech, Shahjahan Omar (BNP-Jhalakathi) stood up on a point of order and said he had come to know from the newspaper reports that the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University had become hostage. He wanted to know where from the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were getting arms. Replying to Omar, Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami said the Islami Chhatra Shibir had launched a campaign against the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University for the realisation of their certain demands. He said he did not know whether the members of Islami Chhatra Shibir were holding arms. He, however, hastened to add that anybody holding illegal arms should be caught. He held out the assurance that he would never plead the cause of those caught for holding illegal arms.

**Akbar Hossain** Akbar Hossain (BNP-Comilla) said terrorism in the Dhaka University campus had actually started in 1973 with the killing of seven students in Mohsin Hall. The trouble had then begun with the hijacking of the ballot papers, he added. He was of the view that terrorism was born when democratic way was blocked. In this connection, he narrated how the democratically elected government of late President Abdus Sattar was dislodged in March, 1982 at the point of guns. Akbar Hossain further said that use of arms could become necessary when it was not possible to topple an autocratic government by democratic means. In this context, he referred to the one-party rule of Ceausescu of Romania and his downfall through the use of arms. Akbar Hossain said some people resorted to terrorism for the collection of toll. He mentioned several incidents in which students were involved only for the collection of toll. He appealed to all quarters not to give toll to students, no matter which political party they belonged to. He said one of the ways to stop terrorism in the campus was to conduct student union elections in a proper way. Each and every party should be given full liberty to propagate its view points without any obstruction. Even Jamaat-e-Islami and Communists Party should be allowed to propagate their views, he said. The BNP member from Comilla said Allah has re-

vealed the Holy Quran for the good of the people, but not for killing them. He criticised those who took recourse to killing in the name of religion. Akbar Hossain said session jam in the universities and colleges was one of the reasons for terrorism. He strongly expressed himself against giving political shelter to arms holders. The government of ten came under criticism for not arresting the holders of illegal arms. But when the police became active to arrest them some demanded resignation of the Prime Minister, he said and wanted to know the whereabouts of Auranga, MP. He said only the police should hold arms if we wanted to establish the rule of law in the country. He called upon all quarters to discuss our past follies openly and explore why our students took to arms and what could be done about them. Akbar Hossain said more often than not students became victims of circumstances and were compelled to take up arms. Appealing all not to use students for realising mean political motives, he said when some people sent their wards abroad for studies, the future of the students studying within Bangladesh should not be destroyed by supplying illegal arms to them. He wanted to know which quarters were now giving shelter to the killers of Dr. Milton. He urged the police to apprehend the holders of arms, even from their underground hideouts. He accused a section of the police for conniving with the misdeeds of the arms holders as they got a share of the toll exacted from the people. He cited examples of how police realised illegal gratifications from the truck drivers and others. Akbar Hossain said it was easy to come to power but it was hard to hold on to power and leave it with dignity. He also attributed terrorism to unemployment of the youth and called for solving this problem.

**Fazlul Karim Selim** Speaking next, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL) said he had expected a very constructive discussion on the issue but certain irrelevant matters in the speech of Treasury Bench member Akbar Hossain on the issue had frustrated that expectation. He said the Education Minister did not give a correct picture about the situation in the Chittagong University campus and added that the Syndicate of the University had taken a decision earlier that the law enforcing agencies could take urgent steps in restoring peace in the campus whenever it was necessary. The opposition member said the Education Minister had rushed to the Chittagong University Saturday without informing the Syndicate members. The known terrorists gave him garlands. The Minister during his meeting with the Vice-Chancellor requested him to step down from the post but the VC did not agree, Selim said. He said the Vice-Chancellor was passing a difficult time with his family members and he could face serious problem anytime. Giving a picture of the educational institutions all over the country, the opposition member said most of the leading institutions — which were known for their reputation in the Pakistani days and even in the British days — were closed today. The medical colleges were closed and it was a matter of shame that never before so many educational institutions had to be shut down at a time, he added. The anti-autocracy movement claimed many lives, Selim said adding that people had expected peace and tranquility in the vital educational arena after the fall of the autocracy. Unfortunately, he added this did not happen much to the dismay of all. What are the sources of weapons in the campus? He asked and said continued terrorism in the educational arena could cost democracy in the country early. Selim said terrorism in the campus is a very serious matter and civil forces could take advantage of the situation to kill democracy in their old style. Stressing the need for curbing terrorism in the campus at all cost, he said terrorists had no identity except that they were known for their act of terrorism, and urged all to shun partisan interest in tackling this problem. Selim said "Obhi-Niru" were known terrorists but they sought political shelter when expelled from Chhatra Dal. As such, he said, terrorists had no political affiliation

and they were guided by their own interests. Where are the killers of "Chunnu"? He asked and called for soul-searching. The opposition member referred to the meeting called by the Prime Minister, on campus violence and observed that violence had since escalated. The session jam is taking away valuable time of the students and this problem must be solved, he said. Selim offered all kinds of constructive cooperation to the government in tackling the menace of terrorism in the educational arena. He called for giving a free hand to the police in controlling the terrorists in the campus and urged all not to plead for them or exert influence from high quarters in their favour. Selim also advocated a system for the university authorities that would help effectively tackle the trouble makers in the campus. He thanked the Education Minister for Sunday's discussion on an important subject but said effective steps were necessary to eliminate terrorism from campus. **Abul Kalam** As Selim completed his speech, Abul Kalam (BNP-Narayanganj) took the floor to say that Selim had mentioned Narayanganj Mahila College as one of the educational institutions closed now. But the college is very much open and installation ceremony of the students union was taking place there Sunday, he added. The Speaker adjourned the House at 1.37 pm till 4 pm Sunday. After the House had resumed its sitting at 4.25 pm with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, Begum Farida Rahman of the Treasury Bench took the floor to discuss the campus situation. **Farida Rahman** She said the situation could not be improved overnight and underscored the need for taking some realistic measures. She said it was very essential now to form the House Committee on the Ministry of Education. Begum Rahman said the jealousy and the attitude of revenge among the political parties have spread in the educational institutions. She also underlined the need for active co-operation of the opposition political parties in tackling the campus crisis. She demanded expulsion of the outsiders from the educational institutions. Begum Rahman opposed use of police forces in the campus. Criticising the speech of Jamaat leader Moulana Nizami, she raised questions who had patronised criminals and who had kept the residence of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University under siege. She stressed the need on issue-based consensus among the political parties and said the crisis in the educational institutions must be tackled in concerted ways. **Syed Najibul Bashar** Participating in the discussion, Syed Najibul Bashar (AL-Chittagong) said we should first find out the causes of terrorism in the campus and know the actual situation there. Bashar said he was in Chittagong Saturday and enquired from the police and administration whether there was anything worth knowing. But they told me there was nothing, he said. He said, it was also found that the police and the administration too did not know anything about the Education Minister's visit to the Chittagong University Saturday. He wanted to know from the Chair how the Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists could know about the visit and were getting prepared to receive the minister with bouquets. Bashar said the Chhatra Shibir initiated terrorism on the campus of Chittagong University in 1986 when its activists chopped off the wrist of a student who was a Chhatra League worker. He said the one man inquiry committee on the Chittagong University incidents was not a neutral one. The committee had accepted the views of the Dainik Sangram, he added. He said the Chhatra Shibir was backed by the former Jatiya Party Ministers Anisul Islam Mahmood and Ziauddin Ahmed who consolidated its strength in the Chittagong University. He said when police tried to take action against the Shibir activists the two JP Minister asked them not to disturb the Shibir. The Awami League member wanted to know from the Chair what kind of democracy it was that allowed a Vice-Chancellor (of the Chittagong University) to be kept a

hostage who was not allowed to come out of his residence. He said it was not at all in accordance of Islam and the Holy Quran. **Moudud Ahmed** Speaking next Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) said the campus situation had been deteriorating gradually and a national consensus was needed to solve the situation. He said the present situation in the educational institutions could not be seen in isolation. The student community were frustrated at the socio-economic instability in the country, he said adding they thought that they had no future. Moudud Ahmed alleged that education sector was gripped by corruption and anarchy. "We tried to solve problems in the education sector during our time", he said. He said at present 76 educational institutions had been closed due to campus violence which was the worst in the post-independence period. He termed the university act as faulty and said under the provision of the act, the Vice-Chancellor had to be elected by the votes of the teachers resulting in grouping among the teachers. Grouping among the teachers also influences the students. Criticising the tendency of patronisation of the student organisations by the political parties, he said as a consequence of this patronisation, students became associated with the national affairs. Moudud Ahmed hoped that the present government would implement the compulsory primary education programme, which, he said, was initiated by the Jatiya Party government. Regarding the tackling of the present campus crisis, he suggested that the crisis would be overcome now if Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and Jamaat leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami sit together. He said, for a long term solution, a consensus must be reached among the political parties. **Enamul Haq Chowdhury** Enamul Haq Chowdhury (Jamaat-Cox's Bazar) said the Islami Chhatra Shibir was not at all engaged in undemocratic activities in the Chittagong University. He said if their movement was undemocratic then the movement at the zero point in Dhaka during mass upsurge was also undemocratic. Haq called for accepting the 300-page report submitted by the one-man inquiry committee on Chittagong University affairs headed by a judge. He said we should show our respect to the rule of law and the judiciary. He suggested an eight point programme for curbing terrorism in the campus which include a code of conduct for both students and the teachers. He said this code of conduct should be binding on all. National consensus was a must for curbing terrorism on the campus, he added. The Speaker adjourned the House for 20 minutes for in Asr prayer. **Salahuddin Yusuf** As the House re-assembled after the Asr prayer at 6.05 pm with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, Salahuddin Yusuf (AL) drew the attention of the chair to his bill on the independence of judiciary. He said the Select Committee on the bill was given two extensions for submission of report and Law Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz had told him that further extension for submission of the report might be required. Since the Law Minister is not present in the House Sunday, Yusuf said, he would like to request the chair to give him a chance to raise the issue when the Law Minister came to the House. The chair said certainly the attention of the Law Minister would be drawn to this. The Speaker then gave the floor to Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury (AL-Chittagong), to take part in discussions on terrorism in the educational institutions. Chowdhury said the subject under discussion was very important and he believed that the House would be able to do something about this problem since the Sangsad on August 6 turned the "impossible into

possible" by unanimously adopting the Constitutional Amendment Bills. The terrorism in the educational institution is a national problem and it is spreading like a cancer, he said. The opposition member said governor Monem Khan in the erstwhile East Pakistan introduced terrorism in the campus for political ends. After liberation, he said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took the General Secretary of the then Student League to task for killing seven persons in the campus. But, he was released by the late Ziaur Rahman and such acts encouraged terrorism, Chowdhury said. The Awami League member said one Azam Khan killed Awami League leader Moizuddin but deposed President H M Ershad had introduced the killer as his brother in public meeting. Referring to Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami's contention that two Islami Chhatra Shibir students were killed in Fatikchhari, Chowdhury said Nizami was silent how many people were killed by his supporters in Chittagong. He called for eliminating terrorism at all costs and said the House could pass such laws that would award hanging to one found with illegal arms. **Rashed Khan Menon** Speaking next, Rashed Khan Menon (Workers' Party) said, students politics of this country has a glorious past and many of the members present in the House Sunday belonged in such a past. He said, late Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni and myself were punished by the government of Monem Khan in the then East Pakistan for taking part in student movements and such events speak for the glorious history of the students. Menon said the students also played a remarkable role in the recent anti-autocracy movement and the House Sunday was not discussing the taking away of the democratic rights of the students and teachers but was determined to eliminate terrorism that was prevailing in the name of students politics. He said student politics was being given a bad name by acts of violence and certain quarters were responsible for this situation. Menon said the autonomy of the university is not a bad concept and said the 1973 University Ordinance might not be free from flaws but it is certainly a good one. He listed unemployment, growing frustration, corruption etc. as the factors for lawlessness in the educational institutions and said the leftist government in West Bengal took several measures to solve such problems. Referring to Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami's observation that his cap and beard came under attack recently in the Dhaka University, Menon said such explanation of the attack was unfortunate. It is his politics and not the cap or beard that came under attack. Our fathers and uncles wear cap and keep beard he said and added that his observation could be an insult to those who grow beards and wear caps, he said. Menon suggested several steps including free hand to police to nab terrorists, filling up 1,80,000 vacant jobs, and confiscation of properties of the terrorists to curb terrorism. **Lutfar Rahman** Taking the floor next, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman said it was a fact that

four universities and 67 colleges were closed in the country due to violence. He said the government did not have the responsibility along, the opposition had also responsibility in this regard. He said none of the 330 members of the sovereign Parliament could avoid responsibility. Rahman said individuals and even some parties were using professional terrorists for achieving political and social gains. He said it was something like the mediaeval period when various bahinis were raised by the rich to use them as a means of power. He said, it would not be the desire of anyone to allow the destruction of the persons who are poised to the take future leadership of the country after 10 to 15 years. He posed a question if the parliamentary democracy could be established ignoring all petty party interests why the violence could not be wiped out from the campus if unity was there among all on the issue. The State Minister for Relief said the political organisations had their student wings in the educational institutions. He said it was true the student organisations were engaged in clash in different educational institutions. He said terrorism in the campuses had become a household talk. He said no one should engage himself in the task of securing the release of any terrorist if he was taken to custody but the members of the law enforcing agency. He said we would have to develop a mentality of disowning them. He said one can have party affiliation in a democratic country. But, he said imparting proper education by the teachers can not be hampered in the name of having party affiliation. He said the guardians were also losing control over their wards being repressed by the socio-economic condition of the country. Every political party has to be determined to eliminate violence, he said, adding every political party had its part to play like the government. He opened all of our endeavours should be directed towards the dawning of another auspicious day like the one we had in achieving parliamentary democracy in the country. We believe the deliberations on the matter would help us achieve a solution in this regard, he asserted. After the State Minister had finished his speech, the Speaker adjourned the House at 6.46 pm. Till 11 am today to resume discussion on the situation in the educational institutions. **'Unity on floor to remain as a landmark in political history'** More political parties and organisations have hailed the passage of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill and called upon the government and the oppositions to uphold the spirit of unanimity and consensus keeping in view the dedication made by the nation towards achieving this long cherished victory, reports BSS. They congratulated Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for their unanimous and consensus role for switching over to the parliamentary form of government through the historic amendment in parliament. They also thanked the members of parliament and other concerned for their role in this respect, according to separate press release. Bangladesh Muslim League President Muhammad Ayuddin has urged Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina to reflect the fruits of this historic victory on the national life. He also urged them to remain alert so that this victory could not be foiled. Bangladesh Nezame-e-Islam Party at its weekly meeting held in Dhaka Saturday resolved that re-establishment of the parliamentary system of government was the result of the nation's long struggle, sacrifices and finally the mass upsurge. It said parliamentary system of government and full dignity of parliament were the ingredients of a stable democracy which could stop autocratic process. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, President of Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs said that the national consensus and unity demonstrated on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad would remain as a landmark in the political and constitutional history of the country. Justice Chowdhury, who is also Chairman of Liberty Forum hoped that the same spirit would be maintained in resolving all political, economic and social issues

and they were guided by their own interests. Where are the killers of "Chunnu"? He asked and called for soul-searching. The opposition member referred to the meeting called by the Prime Minister, on campus violence and observed that violence had since escalated. The session jam is taking away valuable time of the students and this problem must be solved, he said. Selim offered all kinds of constructive cooperation to the government in tackling the menace of terrorism in the educational arena. He called for giving a free hand to the police in controlling the terrorists in the campus and urged all not to plead for them or exert influence from high quarters in their favour. Selim also advocated a system for the university authorities that would help effectively tackle the trouble makers in the campus. He thanked the Education Minister for Sunday's discussion on an important subject but said effective steps were necessary to eliminate terrorism from campus. **Abul Kalam** As Selim completed his speech, Abul Kalam (BNP-Narayanganj) took the floor to say that Selim had mentioned Narayanganj Mahila College as one of the educational institutions closed now. But the college is very much open and installation ceremony of the students union was taking place there Sunday, he added. The Speaker adjourned the House at 1.37 pm till 4 pm Sunday. After the House had resumed its sitting at 4.25 pm with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, Begum Farida Rahman of the Treasury Bench took the floor to discuss the campus situation. **Farida Rahman** She said the situation could not be improved overnight and underscored the need for taking some realistic measures. She said it was very essential now to form the House Committee on the Ministry of Education. Begum Rahman said the jealousy and the attitude of revenge among the political parties have spread in the educational institutions. She also underlined the need for active co-operation of the opposition political parties in tackling the campus crisis. She demanded expulsion of the outsiders from the educational institutions. Begum Rahman opposed use of police forces in the campus. Criticising the speech of Jamaat leader Moulana Nizami, she raised questions who had patronised criminals and who had kept the residence of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University under siege. She stressed the need on issue-based consensus among the political parties and said the crisis in the educational institutions must be tackled in concerted ways. **Syed Najibul Bashar** Participating in the discussion, Syed Najibul Bashar (AL-Chittagong) said we should first find out the causes of terrorism in the campus and know the actual situation there. Bashar said he was in Chittagong Saturday and enquired from the police and administration whether there was anything worth knowing. But they told me there was nothing, he said. He said, it was also found that the police and the administration too did not know anything about the Education Minister's visit to the Chittagong University Saturday. He wanted to know from the Chair how the Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists could know about the visit and were getting prepared to receive the minister with bouquets. Bashar said the Chhatra Shibir initiated terrorism on the campus of Chittagong University in 1986 when its activists chopped off the wrist of a student who was a Chhatra League worker. He said the one man inquiry committee on the Chittagong University incidents was not a neutral one. The committee had accepted the views of the Dainik Sangram, he added. He said the Chhatra Shibir was backed by the former Jatiya Party Ministers Anisul Islam Mahmood and Ziauddin Ahmed who consolidated its strength in the Chittagong University. He said when police tried to take action against the Shibir activists the two JP Minister asked them not to disturb the Shibir. The Awami League member wanted to know from the Chair what kind of democracy it was that allowed a Vice-Chancellor (of the Chittagong University) to be kept a

hostage who was not allowed to come out of his residence. He said it was not at all in accordance of Islam and the Holy Quran. **Moudud Ahmed** Speaking next Moudud Ahmed (JP-Noakhali) said the campus situation had been deteriorating gradually and a national consensus was needed to solve the situation. He said the present situation in the educational institutions could not be seen in isolation. The student community were frustrated at the socio-economic instability in the country, he said adding they thought that they had no future. Moudud Ahmed alleged that education sector was gripped by corruption and anarchy. "We tried to solve problems in the education sector during our time", he said. He said at present 76 educational institutions had been closed due to campus violence which was the worst in the post-independence period. He termed the university act as faulty and said under the provision of the act, the Vice-Chancellor had to be elected by the votes of the teachers resulting in grouping among the teachers. Grouping among the teachers also influences the students. Criticising the tendency of patronisation of the student organisations by the political parties, he said as a consequence of this patronisation, students became associated with the national affairs. Moudud Ahmed hoped that the present government would implement the compulsory primary education programme, which, he said, was initiated by the Jatiya Party government. Regarding the tackling of the present campus crisis, he suggested that the crisis would be overcome now if Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina and Jamaat leader Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami sit together. He said, for a long term solution, a consensus must be reached among the political parties. **Enamul Haq Chowdhury** Enamul Haq Chowdhury (Jamaat-Cox's Bazar) said the Islami Chhatra Shibir was not at all engaged in undemocratic activities in the Chittagong University. He said if their movement was undemocratic then the movement at the zero point in Dhaka during mass upsurge was also undemocratic. Haq called for accepting the 300-page report submitted by the one-man inquiry committee on Chittagong University affairs headed by a judge. He said we should show our respect to the rule of law and the judiciary. He suggested an eight point programme for curbing terrorism in the campus which include a code of conduct for both students and the teachers. He said this code of conduct should be binding on all. National consensus was a must for curbing terrorism on the campus, he added. The Speaker adjourned the House for 20 minutes for in Asr prayer. **Salahuddin Yusuf** As the House re-assembled after the Asr prayer at 6.05 pm with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, Salahuddin Yusuf (AL) drew the attention of the chair to his bill on the independence of judiciary. He said the Select Committee on the bill was given two extensions for submission of report and Law Minister Mirza Gholam Hafiz had told him that further extension for submission of the report might be required. Since the Law Minister is not present in the House Sunday, Yusuf said, he would like to request the chair to give him a chance to raise the issue when the Law Minister came to the House. The chair said certainly the attention of the Law Minister would be drawn to this. The Speaker then gave the floor to Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury (AL-Chittagong), to take part in discussions on terrorism in the educational institutions. Chowdhury said the subject under discussion was very important and he believed that the House would be able to do something about this problem since the Sangsad on August 6 turned the "impossible into

possible" by unanimously adopting the Constitutional Amendment Bills. The terrorism in the educational institution is a national problem and it is spreading like a cancer, he said. The opposition member said governor Monem Khan in the erstwhile East Pakistan introduced terrorism in the campus for political ends. After liberation, he said, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took the General Secretary of the then Student League to task for killing seven persons in the campus. But, he was released by the late Ziaur Rahman and such acts encouraged terrorism, Chowdhury said. The Awami League member said one Azam Khan killed Awami League leader Moizuddin but deposed President H M Ershad had introduced the killer as his brother in public meeting. Referring to Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami's contention that two Islami Chhatra Shibir students were killed in Fatikchhari, Chowdhury said Nizami was silent how many people were killed by his supporters in Chittagong. He called for eliminating terrorism at all costs and said the House could pass such laws that would award hanging to one found with illegal arms. **Rashed Khan Menon** Speaking next, Rashed Khan Menon (Workers' Party) said, students politics of this country has a glorious past and many of the members present in the House Sunday belonged in such a past. He said, late Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni and myself were punished by the government of Monem Khan in the then East Pakistan for taking part in student movements and such events speak for the glorious history of the students. Menon said the students also played a remarkable role in the recent anti-autocracy movement and the House Sunday was not discussing the taking away of the democratic rights of the students and teachers but was determined to eliminate terrorism that was prevailing in the name of students politics. He said student politics was being given a bad name by acts of violence and certain quarters were responsible for this situation. Menon said the autonomy of the university is not a bad concept and said the 1973 University Ordinance might not be free from flaws but it is certainly a good one. He listed unemployment, growing frustration, corruption etc. as the factors for lawlessness in the educational institutions and said the leftist government in West Bengal took several measures to solve such problems. Referring to Jamaat leader Matur Rahman Nizami's observation that his cap and beard came under attack recently in the Dhaka University, Menon said such explanation of the attack was unfortunate. It is his politics and not the cap or beard that came under attack. Our fathers and uncles wear cap and keep beard he said and added that his observation could be an insult to those who grow beards and wear caps, he said. Menon suggested several steps including free hand to police to nab terrorists, filling up 1,80,000 vacant jobs, and confiscation of properties of the terrorists to curb terrorism. **Lutfar Rahman** Taking the floor next, State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman said it was a fact that

four universities and 67 colleges were closed in the country due to violence. He said the government did not have the responsibility along, the opposition had also responsibility in this regard. He said none of the 330 members of the sovereign Parliament could avoid responsibility. Rahman said individuals and even some parties were using professional terrorists for achieving political and social gains. He said it was something like the mediaeval period when various bahinis were raised by the rich to use them as a means of power. He said, it would not be the desire of anyone to allow the destruction of the persons who are poised to the take future leadership of the country after 10 to 15 years. He posed a question if the parliamentary democracy could be established ignoring all petty party interests why the violence could not be wiped out from the campus if unity was there among all on the issue. The State Minister for Relief said the political organisations had their student wings in the educational institutions. He said it was true the student organisations were engaged in clash in different educational institutions. He said terrorism in the campuses had become a household talk. He said no one should engage himself in the task of securing the release of any terrorist if he was taken to custody but the members of the law enforcing agency. He said we would have to develop a mentality of disowning them. He said one can have party affiliation in a democratic country. But, he said imparting proper education by the teachers can not be hampered in the name of having party affiliation. He said the guardians were also losing control over their wards being repressed by the socio-economic condition of the country. Every political party has to be determined to eliminate violence, he said, adding every political party had its part to play like the government. He opened all of our endeavours should be directed towards the dawning of another auspicious day like the one we had in achieving parliamentary democracy in the country. We believe the deliberations on the matter would help us achieve a solution in this regard, he asserted. After the State Minister had finished his speech, the Speaker adjourned the House at 6.46 pm. Till 11 am today to resume discussion on the situation in the educational institutions. **'Unity on floor to remain as a landmark in political history'** More political parties and organisations have hailed the passage of the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill and called upon the government and the oppositions to uphold the spirit of unanimity and consensus keeping in view the dedication made by the nation towards achieving this long cherished victory, reports BSS. They congratulated Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina for their unanimous and consensus role for switching over to the parliamentary form of government through the historic amendment in parliament. They also thanked the members of parliament and other concerned for their role in this respect, according to separate press release. Bangladesh Muslim League President Muhammad Ayuddin has urged Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina to reflect the fruits of this historic victory on the national life. He also urged them to remain alert so that this victory could not be foiled. Bangladesh Nezame-e-Islam Party at its weekly meeting held in Dhaka Saturday resolved that re-establishment of the parliamentary system of government was the result of the nation's long struggle, sacrifices and finally the mass upsurge. It said parliamentary system of government and full dignity of parliament were the ingredients of a stable democracy which could stop autocratic process. Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, President of Bangladesh Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs said that the national consensus and unity demonstrated on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad would remain as a landmark in the political and constitutional history of the country. Justice Chowdhury, who is also Chairman of Liberty Forum hoped that the same spirit would be maintained in resolving all political, economic and social issues

and they were guided by their own interests. Where are the killers of "Chunnu"? He asked and called for soul-searching. The opposition member referred to the meeting called by the Prime Minister, on campus violence and observed that violence had since escalated. The session jam is taking away valuable time of the students and this problem must be solved, he said. Selim offered all kinds of constructive cooperation to the government in tackling the menace of terrorism in the educational arena. He called for giving a free hand to the police in controlling the terrorists in the campus and urged all not to plead for them or exert influence from high quarters in their favour. Selim also advocated a system for the university authorities that would help effectively tackle the trouble makers in the campus. He thanked the Education Minister for Sunday's discussion on an important subject but said effective steps were necessary to eliminate terrorism from campus. **Abul Kalam** As Selim completed his speech, Abul Kalam (BNP-Narayanganj) took the floor to say that Selim had mentioned Narayanganj Mahila College as one of the educational institutions closed now. But the college is very much open and installation ceremony of the students union was taking place there Sunday, he added. The Speaker adjourned the House at 1.37 pm till 4 pm Sunday. After the House had resumed its sitting at 4.25 pm with Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas in the chair, Begum Farida Rahman of the Treasury Bench took the floor to discuss the campus situation. **Farida Rahman** She said the situation could not be improved overnight and underscored the need for taking some realistic measures. She said it was very essential now to form the House Committee on the Ministry of Education. Begum Rahman said the jealousy and the attitude of revenge among the political parties have spread in the educational institutions. She also underlined the need for active co-operation of the opposition political parties in tackling the campus crisis. She demanded expulsion of the outsiders from the educational institutions. Begum Rahman opposed use of police forces in the campus. Criticising the speech of Jamaat leader Moulana Nizami, she raised questions who had patronised criminals and who had kept the residence of the Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University under siege. She stressed the need on issue-based consensus among the political parties and said the crisis in the educational institutions must be tackled in concerted ways. **Syed Najibul Bashar** Participating in the discussion, Syed Najibul Bashar (AL-Chittagong) said we should first find out the causes of terrorism in the campus and know the actual situation there. Bashar said he was in Chittagong Saturday and enquired from the police and administration whether there was anything worth knowing. But they told me there was nothing, he said. He said, it was also found that the police and the administration too did not know anything about the Education Minister's visit to the Chittagong University Saturday. He wanted to know from the Chair how the Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists could know about the visit and were getting prepared to receive the minister with bouquets. Bashar said the Chhatra Shibir initiated terrorism on the campus of Chittagong University in 1986 when its activists chopped off the wrist of a student who was a Chhatra League worker. He said the one man inquiry committee on the Chittagong University incidents was not a neutral one. The committee had accepted the views of the Dainik Sangram, he added. He said the Chhatra Shibir was backed by the former Jatiya Party Ministers Anisul Islam Mahmood and Ziauddin Ahmed who consolidated its strength in the Chittagong University. He said when police tried to take action against the Shibir activists the two JP Minister asked them not to disturb the Shibir. The Awami League member wanted to know from the Chair what kind of democracy it was that allowed a Vice-Chancellor (of the Chittagong University) to be kept a

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