

Govt working to restore edn atmosphere: LM

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Law minister Anisul Huq on Tuesday said that they were trying to reinstate the atmosphere of education as soon as possible.

At a press conference, against the backdrop of the nationwide student protest turned violent, he also warned of stern action if the current situation deteriorated.



The minister's comments came at a time when the Appellate Division on July 21 asked the government to create atmosphere for education.

At the same conference, education minister Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said that they were conducting an assessment to find out the number of students killed in the movement.

'There is some information, some disinformation and some are rumours,' he said about casualties.

The law minister in this regard said, 'You all have to keep it in mind that the investigation is going on and that is judicial probe,' adding, 'we will not talk about this until it completes.'

Nearly 160 people, including many students, were killed recently as student protests, starting on July 1, turned violent following an attack on protesters by student wing of the ruling Awami League, Bangladesh Chhatra League, on July 16.

Public administration minister Farhad Hossain, education minister, and state minister for information Mohammad A Arafat were also present at the press conference held at the law minister's residence in the capital.

Earlier on July 21, the Appellate Division scrapped the High Court verdict on quota in government jobs, while fixing quotas at 7 per cent.

During the verdict, chief justice Obaidul Hassan urged the agitating students to return to classes, asking all vice-chancellors and heads of all educational institutions to take initiative in this regard.

Law minister Anisul Huq on Tuesday also urged the students to return to their own educational institutions as the government had issued a gazette notification on Tuesday as per the students' demand.

'The prime minister already said that she would take steps for the people killed and injured in the movement,' he replied to a question.

The government would take step for medical treatment of the general students who received injuries during the violence, he said.

About cases against the students, Anisul said that if the general students provided them with the information of cases the government would surely look into the matter.

He alleged that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh Islami Chhatrashibir and Bangladesh Chhatra Dal used this movement and the students as cover to destroy the country.

Education minister Mohibul Hassan said that an assessment was necessary at first to determine how many genuine students and how many others behind them participated in the movement.

'After the current state of the situation changes, it will be possible for us to determine the students among those who were killed and in which educational institutions they studied,' he added.

State minister Mohammad A Arafat alleged that a 'syndicate' conducted 'a disinformation campaign' amid the internet shutdown as per their plan during the protest and drawing from them different international media published wrong information of the casualties.

He also said that militants, members of Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Islami Chhatrashibir made the attacks and were responsible for the casualties in the clashes with the law enforcement agencies, adding that all those responsible would be brought to justice.