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'Campus violence due to teachers' politics, students' tailism'

By A Staff Reporter

Teachers' involvement in active politics and students' tailism to political parties were root causes of violence on the campus of Dhaka University, Deputy Prime Minister Dr M A Matin told the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday.

Replying to two separate call attention notices by Mr Mostafizur Rahman (COP) and Mr Shahjahan Siraj, JSD group leader on post DUCSU polls violence in Dhaka University campus and clash between two rival political parties in Tangail, the Deputy Prime Minister said that if the police was entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining law and order on the campus and allowed to enter different residential hall

without prior permission, law and order in Dhaka University would remain under control.

The Deputy Prime Minister, who is in-charge of the Ministry of Home Affairs said that for the first time in Bangladesh, elections to DUCSU and hall unions were held peacefully on February 8. But, he regretted, after the results of the polls were announced, participants of a victory procession and demonstrators protesting what they claimed polls rigging had engaged in clashes next days.

He said that with prior permission, police were posted at 12 entry points and 13 polling centres on the election day. But when rival student groups

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Campus violence

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had engaged themselves in clashes, the university authority had refused to give permission to police to enter the halls. "No provost or house tutor or proctor was available," he said.

ISLAND OF PEACE

Referring to the allegation by Mr Mostafizur Rahman that law and order situation has deteriorated in the country, he said that law and order situation in Bangladesh was comparatively better than countries like India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"We are in small island of peace, compared to the crime rate in other countries," he said.

He said that though the number of police personnel was insufficient in Bangladesh, the rate crime was also very low.

Dr Matin said that law and order situation in the country was satisfactory as incidents of crime had shown a downward trend in 1988 compared to that of the previous year.

Speaking on the Tangail incident, the DPM said that the clash between supporters of two rival political parties in Tangail was the outcome of DUCSU elections.

Dr Matin refuted the allegation that Tangail police and fire brigade had made inordinate delay in bringing the situation under control and extinguishing fire and said that police had rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control within 20 minutes. He said that the fire brigade had also rushed to the spot in five minutes after receiving the fire alarm.

He said that it was not true that 50 people were injured and 50 shops gutted adding that four persons were injured and 14 shops gutted in the incident. He said that the loss property was estimated to be 95 lakhs.

Dr Matin informed three persons were arrested in connection with the incident in Tangail. He said peace was prevailing in Tangail and there was no panick among the inhabitants there.