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DU VC's car damaged by JCD activists

Varsity Correspondent

The official car of Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury was damaged allegedly by some unruly activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Monday during their VC office gherao programme.

The student organisation threw this programme last Friday, demanding resignation of the VC, recovery of illegal arms and arrest of terrorists and reinstatement of the students ousted from different halls of the university.

In an instant reaction to the incident, the university Syndicate on Monday afternoon imposed ban on holding rallies, meetings and processions in and around the Administrative Building for an indefinite period.

The restrictions will also be applicable to the scheduled strike called by left-leaning Gonotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) on the campus today (Tuesday). However, the university authorities already postponed all examinations scheduled for today on the ground of "unavoidable circumstances".

The GCO leaders brought out processions in support of today's strike and blamed the authorities for failing to maintain peace on the campus.

Witnesses said three to four persons broke the windshield and the windows of the VC's car, which was parked at the university transport pool behind the Administrative Building at about 12:45 pm.

VC's car damaged

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The chauffeur alleged that the persons with iron rods and brick-bats came from the JCD's rally in front of the VC office and attacked the Mitsubishi Lancer GLX car bearing number Dhaka Metro-Kha-11-8744. He filed a complaint with Ramna police station.

Terming the incident unwanted, VC Prof Azad Chowdhury told journalists that no such incident took place in the last five years. "I have no word to express my feeling, but even then I urge all to maintain congenial atmosphere on the campus.

In the changed political scenario, "some people are trying to destabilise the country through terrorism and they selected the university campus to commit violent acts," the VC said. He claimed that this was part of a design to tarnish the university's image earned during his tenure as VC.

As the news spread, leaders and activists of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) rushed to VC office and expressed their resentments over the incident. They demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible.

"We can't tolerate such acts of terrorism on the campus," BCL president Bahadur Bepari told the VC.

BCL general secretary Ajoy Kar Khokan told Azad Chowdhury that the BCL took the responsibility to keep the campus calm when AL was in power but now they would not do that. "If anybody wants to use muscle, they should know that we've the capability of retaliating that," he said.

The JCD leaders observed the sit-in demonstration and stuck to their demand for the VC's resignation. "Prof Azad Chowdhury has lost his neutrality by backing Chhatra League cadres in the halls," JCD general secretary Shahabuddin Laltu said.

Meanwhile, BCL activists handed over two youths, suspected to be Shibir activists, to police.