

## Withdrawal of DU VC, Proctor's security widely protested

Varsity Correspondent

The withdrawal of the bodyguards of Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor and Proctor evoked sharp reactions from the Senate and Syndicate members of the university, various professional and student organisations.

They protested against the withdrawal of guards and demanded immediate reinstatement of security personnel for the VC of the country's pioneer university.

The government withdrew the bodyguards of Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and Proctor Prof AKM Noor-un-Nabi on Tuesday. Four sub-inspectors have been guarding them round the clock since May, 1997.

The DU Syndicate unanimously protested against the step and expressed concern over the security of the VC. They said the withdrawal order came instead of strengthening the security when the country's educational institutions, including Dhaka University, were facing volatile situation. They demanded of the authorities to reinstate their security arrangements.

The senate members of DU also condemned the withdrawal of the personal security of DU VC and Proctor.

"The security was withdrawn at a time, when the varsity authority took initiatives to resolve the present deadlock and sought co-operation from the caretaker gov-

ernment after apprising the Chief Advisor of everything," said a press release signed by 39 senate members.

They said this step would raise questions in the public mind about the role of the caretaker government.

Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA) also expressed their resentment over the withdrawal of the VC's security.

DUJA leaders in a statement on Wednesday expressed deep concern at and condemned the withdrawal of security arrangement.

Teachers of the Blue Panel of Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh also protested the incident.

President of the Blue panel Prof M Asaduzzaman and general secretary Prof M Ahsan Bin Habib in a statement on Wednesday demanded of the government to provide tight security to the VC, Proctor, teachers and students of all the universities, including DU.

They said the Treasurer of Khulna University was shot dead in broad day light and terrorists damaged the limousine of DU VC but the culprits remained unpunished and released within three hours of their arrest.

"Considering the overall situation, it is clear that the Caretaker Government is moving in a wrong direction and misusing its power, which is likely to make the Caretaker Government system controversial," they said.