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DU VC not to resign under duress

Varsity Correspondent

Against the tremendous pressure from the government to quit the highest chair of country's premier university, the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University is sticking to his stance of not leaving the post voluntarily.

Talking to The Bangladesh Observer VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury said he would not do anything from his part. "I'd follow the decision of the University Senate by which I was elected," he said.

Following the footsteps of reshuffling in country's key-posts by the new coalition government, the DU VC has been facing a serious pressure from the government and the supporters of BNP and Jamaat to resign.

Prof Chowdhury, the first DU VC elected by the University Senate for the second term twice, earlier showed a flexible stance as a group of teachers belonging to BNP and Jamaat-backed White Panel pressed him not to do anything but to do the routine work only to run the university.

But the Awami League-backed Blue Panel opposed this decision. According to some young DU teachers Prof Chowdhury wanted to avoid any dispute centering himself but his supporters took the hardline as Prof Chowdhury was elected by them and not selected by the government.

According to the Dhaka University Ordinance 1973, an elected Vice Chancellor could not be removed or be impeached if he does not resign himself.

On the eve of the President election, rumour runs high on the campus that the new President will change the VC according to his jurisdiction.

The rumour got a new dimension among the teachers after BNP Standing Committee Member and Foreign Minister Prof AQM Bad-

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DU VC

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raddoza Choudhury was nominated for the Presidential Elections by his party.

A Professor of Political Science who did not want to be named told this correspondent that in a sense the Chancellor of the university has the power to remove the VC as per the General Clauses Act, 1872, framed by the British India Government.

"But it will be an imposed decision," he observed saying "the university must be run by the 73 Ordinance not by any other colonial rules".