



Legal actions underway

Illegal removal of VCs slated

Staff Correspondent

Speaker at a civic rally held Wednesday deeply resented legal removal of half a dozen democratically elected Vice-Chancellors of six public universities.

They also cautioned the government saying, "we would seek legal protection from the court against the unlawful and automatic decisions by the BNP-Jamaat government."

The Chancellor of the universities and out-going President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in a notification issued on Sunday moved the Vice-Chancellors of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Jahangir Nagar and National Universities.

"The removal orders were issued under the General Clauses Act 1897 while the new appointments made under the provisions of the University Ordinance 1973," they observed and said that the civil society would not spare the law-breakers.

Representatives of the professionals bodies and the members of the civil society organized a rally at the auditorium of the National Press Club.

The removed Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University AK Azad Chowdhury, Jahangir Nagar University Professor Abdul Bayes, Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Shahadat Ali, Editor of Bangladesh Observer and President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, President of Dhaka University Teachers Association Professor RIM Minur Rashid, General Secretary of Jahangir Nagar University Teachers Association Professor Ahmed Rezwana, Bangladesh Medical Association President Dr. Kamaluddin Chowdhury, freedom fighter at Kadir Gama, Convener of Jatantrik Oikyo Parishad Advocate Sayed Ahmed among others spoke at the rally while Professor Mazharul Islam presided.

An embarrassed and existed VC Professor AK Azad Chowdhury expressed his determination to work hard in improving the image of the highest authority of Dhaka University.

Issuing a note of warning to authorities the ousted DU VC said that the nation would have to pay a lot for the injustice and irregularities inflicted against VCs of the public universities.

He termed the President Order as 'illegal' and said that the universities were given autonomy by University Ordinance 1973.

"The Vice-Chancellors are accountable to the respective Senates and the Syndicates, neither to the Chancellor nor to the Prime Minister," he said.

"It'll be my personal decision to get back to the Pharmacy Department or I join somewhere else. But surely I won't obey the illegal Executive Order," he asserted.

The President of Association of Universities, Bangladesh also removed VC of Jahangir Nagar University Abdul Bayes said that he already sought legal protection in the court against the illegal removal and vowed to fight a legal battle.

Terming the takeover by the new appointees particularly in Dhaka and Jahangir Nagar Universities as 'coups in the night', he posed question to the new VCs as to whom they received the offices from.

He drew conclusion saying "If the situation is this in the heart of the country then the magnitude of the oppression and repressions in the remote villages is understandable."

The President of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said that the episode of takeover by the new VC did not surprise him.

"Those who captured the whole country by manipulation in the October 1 election, it was nothing for them to capture the university dormitories and the VC Offices," he observed with deep resentment and called upon the civil society to resist these fascist moves.

The journalists leader accused the BNP-Jamaat government of politicising the bureaucracy, unprecedented oppressions and spoiling democratic values in the country.

Criticizing the partisan role of the out-going President Justice Shahabuddin, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said that some of his 'last-minute steps' ruined the trust and confidence people had in him earlier.

There is a lot of similarities in his (Justice Shahabuddin's) actions with historically infamous Mir Zafar during the War of