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BNP MPs stage walkout

Govt blamed for failure to tackle DU situation

Opposition BNP members walked out of the House on Sunday to protest the failure of Education and Home Ministers in tackling situation in the trouble-torn Dhaka University where the VC quit his office, reports UNB.

Before staging the walkout at about 5:55 pm, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury said Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Proctor Nazrul Islam and nine provosts had resigned in the wake of an explosive situation on the DU campus.

Prof Chowdhury quoted the VC's statement on resignation and said such an event at the highest citadel of learning is unprecedented in the annals of history.

As some Treasury bench members raised a hue and cry midway his comment, he said there is no scope of undermining this incident which will only bring more disaster for the nation.

"The administration of Dhaka University has collapsed, armed hoodlums are moving scot-free letting loose anarchy and shedding blood on the campus," the BNP leader told the House.

Chowdhury alleged the government demonstrated a "mindless cruelty and irresponsibility" by turning a blind eye to the DU situation while the Education Minister and the Home Minister failed to carry out their duties.

Rebutting the walkout, Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman accused the opposition of trying to fish in the troubled water as BNP could not accept its electoral defeat.

He said they staged walkout frequently on different pretexts from the first day of this maiden session of the new Parliament.

Zillur alleged that Prof Chowdhury made untrue and provocative remarks to find a plea for walkout.

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and denounced the reasons for Opposition walkout as ludicrous.

Education Minister ASHK Sadique said he was amazed at the statement of the Deputy Opposition Leader on the resignation of the DU Vice-Chancellor.

"If we try to find out the causes behind the DU situation, then we will have to speak against the Vice-Chancellor. The last few days' incidents in Dhaka University are nothing new. In last five years, many more tragic incidents have occurred there."

Even students were killed on the open stage on the campus and general students fled the horrible scene. "What that famous VC had done at that time? I don't want to speak against him in his absence..." the Education Minister said.

Sadique said he had conversations with the Vice-Chancellor and that he requested him to continue in office so that the situation does not aggravate.

But he (VC) issued the statement all on a sudden, the Education Minister told the House. Sadique pointed out the VC's political affiliation and said he had always worked in favour of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and instigated students in last four years.

The Education Minister said the Home Minister had made statement on Dhaka University explaining how JCD workers equipped with illegal arms launched attacks on police. Many JCD members were caught along with illegal arms, he said.

Without completing his statement, Sadique said he would come up with full details about the Vice-Chancellor today (Monday).

Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of Awami League said Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed was the President of Zia Parishad and helped JCD in launching terrorist acts.

"The drama of resignation was to cover up his misdeeds for last five years," he said in a bitter criticism of the VC who tendered resignation on Saturday amidst a wave of violence at the university.