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Create spirit of tolerance among students : CU VC

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: Prof. R. I. Chowdhury Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University in an exclusive interview with the Bangladesh Times recently said the Chittagong University must



take pride of the understanding of the students, their good will, and code of conduct which is helping the University run smoothly. On being asked how did he overcome the deadlock which caused a chaotic atmosphere on CU Campus for a long time, Prof. R. I. Chowdhury said, this is the fact that the University of Chittagong was in doldrums because of the disturbances of the students. After assuming my office I gave a thought to the origin of this problem. It was transpired that the students of University were in two poles. One pole was within the campus and the other outside the campus. As a Vice-Chancellor I felt that this gap between the two stands of thoughts must be bridged otherwise it will be difficult to run the administration of University. He added, so I began the process of dialogue between the two poles on one hand, the teachers of University. On the other I did not follow any special lining, rather I used the same principle, which universities of our country are following. In this connection I can only mention the two warring groups of students came the table of dialogue and through mutual understanding and consensus a system was evolved with which the University is running now. I am really grateful to the teachers and students of Chittagong University for their co-operation he praised.

A political scientist and educationist Prof. R. I. Chowdhury also a senior most teacher among his CU colleagues replaced Prof. Alamgir Mohammed Sirajuddin as head of CU administration on December 30, 1991. Before his assumption of office as VC he was elected one of the three member panel for the post of Vice-Chancellor.

Soon after assumption of office as VC Prof. R. I. Chowdhury paid his well-equipped faculties of talent and thoughts to restore a congenial atmosphere. He successfully managed to remove all odds from the campus. His initiatives have been highly appreciated by all quarters of the university.

Replies how did he remove all odds from the campus in this connection he also added, "It will not be out of place to mention here that I did not act upon the whims of any political party in this regard. Because, I identified the problem which was prevailing at that time in CU Campus. It was the problem of our own and was to be solved only by us that is the students and teachers.

Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation, district administration also cooperated. Asked

why CU Campus on occasions becomes very much agitated, he replied, Chittagong University Campus is not in an isolated island. This is an integral part of the country. Hence the University becomes subject to terrorism or the like because of obvious reasons. There is total unrest in our society and as such the campus also gets affected with the situation prevailing in the country.

Explaining the cause of the fall of our consensus Prof. R. I. Chowdhury said, "These days students run after degrees but earlier the race was for the accumulation of knowledge. This is unfortunate that degree takes precedence over knowledge and this must be shunned. Then again comes the role of guardians. Guardians must keep an eye on the come forward to see what activities of their wards in the University. This will not be wrong to say that the now the guardians are not doing their exact duties."

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Prof. R. I. Chowdhury said, this is not possible to prevent the students from resorting to terrorism by keeping the students within the orbit of party politics. What is needed at the moment is to create a spirit of toleration among the students. Students must be rational and objectives in their attitude to life."

He said, student must take part in politics but that must be objectives. "What role the political parties can play in checking campus terrorism" replying the question he said, definitely, political parties in our country have vital role to play in checking campus terrorism. They must chalk out a plan how to keep far from politics. This would help the country.