

Former DU VC, proctor sued over attack, arson

A case was filed yesterday against 13 individuals, including former Dhaka University vice-chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman and former proctor Prof Golam Rabbani, over alleged attacks, arson at the VC's residence, and subsequent repression during the 2018 quota reform movement.

Mohammad Rashed Khan, general secretary of Gono Odhikar Parishad, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station, naming 13 people and about 500 unnamed leaders and activists of the banned Chhatra League.



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Speaking to reporters at the police station, Rashed demanded that the accused be arrested within 48 hours.

In his complaint, Rashed recounted events beginning on April 8, 2018, when students held a mass rally at Shahbagh as part of the quota reform movement. Around 6:30pm, police launched an "unprovoked" attack with tear gas, prompting wider student protests across DU and nearby institutions.

Many students, including female students who reportedly broke dormitory gates, joined the demonstration.

"Fearing this student uprising, the government resorted to conspiracy," the complaint alleged.

Rashed claimed that around 1:00am on April 9, individuals wearing "Dhaka College Chhatra League" t-shirts attacked and vandalised the VC's residence, setting parts of it on fire. DU's senior security officer filed a case about the incident on April 10.

The statement also said senior Awami League leaders, including Presidium Member Jahangir Kabir Nanak, were seen near the DU campus during the attack.

It further alleged that pro-AL, the then leadership of central and DU BCL, and senior Awami League members orchestrated the incident to discredit the peaceful student movement.

Others named in the case include AL leaders Jahangir Kabir Nanak and Enamul Haque Shamim; former BCL leaders Saifur Rahman Sohag, SM Zakir Hossain, Abid Al Hasan, Motahar Hossain Prince, Al Nahian Khan Joy, and Sakib Hasan Suim; Muktiyoddha Sontan Command President

Mehedi Hasan; the-then president of DU Teachers' Association Prof Maksud Kamal; and former DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Muhammad Abdus Samad.