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Rajshahi University students block road as fellow stabbed

RU Correspondent | Updated at 12:39am on October 20, 2019

Students of Rajshahi University continued their demonstrations on Saturday protesting against the knife attack on their fellow students and demanding safe campus for the university teachers and students.

The students started their demonstration at 9:45pm on Friday, two hours after a first year student of economics department, Firoz Anam, was stabbed by a group of unidentified youths at the university's Shaheed Habibur Rahman playground at 7:30pm.

Firoz told New Age that he along with his friend were standing in front of a photocopy shop near the stadium when few youths called him to the nearby Shaheed Habibur Rahman playground around 7:45pm and asked him to give everything he had.

As he screamed for help, the youth hit him on the head and his leg with hammer and knife, leaving him critically injured.

Protesting against the incident, students of the university blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in front of the university main entrance at 9:50pm demanding immediate arrest of the attackers.

During the demonstrations, the university proctor sat with the agitating students several times but failed to reach a solution.

The agitating students pressed for a five-point charter of demands including immediate arrest of the attackers, ensuring the overall security of the teachers and students on campus, setting up closed circuit cameras at every point of the university, restricting free movement of outsiders on the campus, and giving a logical explanation of why Kishor Kumar was picked up by detectives.

At around 11:45pm, assistant proctor Humayon Kabir went to meet the agitators and locked in a scuffle with them. At one stage, Chhatra League activists Kishor Kumar and SRK Raj assaulted Humayon Kabir physically.

Following the assault, the detectives picked up Kishor from the scene and released him half an hour later in the face of the student protests.

At 4:00am, the students postponed their demonstration till 10:00am on Saturday after proctor Lutfur Rahman assured them of meeting their demands.

However, the students again blocked Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at 12:00pm on Saturday as the university authority failed to meet their demands within the deadline.

Later, the students withdrew their blockade at 2:25 pm after the proctor again assured them of meeting their demands after the admission test scheduled to be held on October 21 and 22.

The leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Badarganj Upazila Samiti also formed separate human chains in front of the university central library demanding a safe campus for students.

Proctor Lutfor Rahman told New Age that they were planning to bring the whole campus under camera surveillance and restricting free movement of outsiders on the campus.

Matihar police officer-in-charge Hafizur Rahman said the victim filed an attempt to murder case with the police station on Friday night and they had already detained three persons in this connection for interrogation.

The detainees were Rubel Hossain, 24, son of Jahid Hossain of Talaimari, Rifat Hossain, 23, son of Chhabir Hossain of Shiroil area, and Pervez of Shiroil area.

In last one year, the students reportedly experienced more than thirty incidents of mugging on the campus.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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