

Half-day hartal called today: probe body formed

One killed, 40 injured in clashes: RU closed

RAJSHAHI, Sept. 19.—A student was killed and 40 others were injured, 13 seriously, in one of the worst incidents of violence at the trouble-torn Rajshahi University early today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Jubayer Chowdhury Rimu (22), a second year honours student of Management and son of Satkhira Govt. College teacher Abu Matlebur Rahman.

Authorities declared the University closed since die and ordered all residents to vacate their halls by 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon.

The RU Syndicate took the clo-

sure decision in an emergency meeting following the pre-dawn clashes in which scores of rooms of the residential halls were ransacked and torched allegedly by Islami Chhatra Shibir activists. The official residence of the Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor office were also ransacked later by the protesters.

Meanwhile, all the Provosts of 13 residential halls of the Varsity resigned en masse following the violence and some students misbehaviour with them.

Campus sources said trouble erupted when some 500 Shibirites, backed by outsiders, attacked four

halls with firearms and lethal weapons at about 3 a.m. while the students were asleep.

The attackers ransacked 51 rooms and set on fire 28 others in the four halls by firing 10 gunshots and blasting about 40 bombs during the rampage that lasted more than one and a half hours.

The Shibir activists first swooped on Sher-e-Bangla Hall all on a sudden and ransacked 11 rooms and set fire to 4 others.

Then, the militants marched to Shaheed Suhrawardy Hall and stormed into the dormitory. Seventeen rooms of the Hall were dam-

aged and 6 others set ablaze.

Afterwards, they attacked Mather Bux Hall and destroyed 16 rooms and set ablaze 10 others. In their last attempt, the Shibirites swooped on Habibur Rahman Hall where they damaged 7 rooms and set on fire 8 others.

In protest against the "heinous Shibir attack", the general students and activists of different student organisations, including the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Moitree, brought out a combined procession at 5 a.m. and ransacked the official residence of Vice-Chancellor and the Proctor office.

The angry students also allegedly hurled stones at Acting VC Prof Azhar Uddin and manhandled Registrar Omar Faruque, Controller of Examinations Monsur Ahmed, Assistant Proctor AZM Soeb. They also hurled abuses at Provost of Suhrawardy Hall Prof M. Zaman to give vent to their anguish.

In a written statement to the journalists, the Provosts listed loss of life and property, rising terrorism and violence on the campus, ill behaviour of the students with them and lack of security of life of the Provosts as the reasons for their resignation.

General students alleged during the attack police remained silent and did not act to protect the innocent students.

At 6 a.m. police raided Nawab See Page 10 Col.3

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Abdul Latif Hall, but didn't find any arms and troublemakers.

The Deputy Commissioner told UNB that "the total situation has gone out of our control. We have nothing to do. That's why, we have handed over control of the situation to police".

Heavy police guards have been put up on the troubled University campus.

All the seriously injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. They were named Sirajul, Pata, Shafiqul, Imran, Shafid, Bidyut, Farhad, Mizanur, Zahidul, Delwar, Azam Khan, Kajol and Mithu. The rest 17 were released after first aid.

Shibir, however, blamed Chhatra Moitree for attacking its activists first.

Meanwhile, the student organisations of eight-party alliance in Rajshahi have called a half-day hartal in the town from 6 a.m. tomorrow (Monday) to protest today's (Sunday's) violence on Rajshahi University campus.

The student organisations

announced the programme in a Press conference at the Rajshahi Press Club this (Sunday) evening after they held a protest march in the town protesting terrorist activities, allegedly by Chhatra Shibir activists.

Eight Shibir activists held

Meanwhile, police picked up eight Shibir activists from Shaheed Shamuzzoha Hall and Sher-e-Bangla Hall in the noon suspecting their involvement in the violence.

The arrested are: Kamal Pasha, Shamsul Alam, Sarwar Jahan, Munshi Abu Daud, Shafiqul Islam, Abdul Malek Ratan, Abdul Hye of Shaheed Shamuzzoha Hall and Shafidul Islam of Sher-e-Bangla Hall.

The University Syndicate in a meeting constituted an inquiry committee with Prof Abul Fazal Haq as convener and Prof Abdul Kader Bhuiyan and Prof Azhar Ali as members to probe into the incident. The committee has been given 15 days time to submit the reports.

2000 JCD members resign

In another development, some 2000 leaders and workers of JCD Rajshahi University unit and AGS of central committee of JCD, Shahin Shawkat tendered their resignation en masse expressing their disgust over what they called "step-motherly attitude" of the central leaders, indecision of the central leaders in dealing with Jamaat and Shibir workers who let loose reign of terror in Rajshahi University and dilly-dally in arresting the Shibir activists responsible for the killing of February 6 incident.

Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) in an emergency meeting with Prof M. Kaisuddin in the chair demanded resignation of the Home Minister and Education Minister for their failure to stop violence on the campus. They demanded immediate arrest of the culprits for unleashing the pre-dawn violence.

The RUTA also decided to abstain from all academic and administrative activities until they are given assurance of their security.

The meeting of the RUTA also condemned attacks on the Pro-VC, Registrar and officials and demanded punishment of the attackers.

They expressed their sympathy for the bereaved families of the victim of the today's (Sunday's) incident and demanded compensation from the government.