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DUTA Secy, RU ex-VC among 5 teachers held

Staff Correspondent

Five teachers of Dhaka and Rajshahi Universities including former Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor and Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) General Secretary and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President were taken into custody by security personnel on Friday morning in the capital and in Rajshahi.

Professors of Rajshahi University are former VC Saidur Rahman Khan, Abdus Sobhan and Moloy Kumar Bhawmik.

In the small hours of Friday, DUTA general secretary Prof. Anwar Hossain and another senior Dhaka University teacher Prof. Harun-or-Rashid were picked up by intelligence agency from their campus residences.

Family and campus sources said plainclothes security personnel went to Fuller Road residences of Prof. Hossain of Biochemistry Department and Prof. Rashid of Political Science Department at about 12.20pm.

Another report says, the security personnel arrested Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Azizul Bari Helal from a residence in the city on Friday morning. JCD sources said Helal was picked up at about 7.00am.

Our Rajshhai Correspondent writes: Law enforcers also raided houses of Associate Prof. Moloy Kumar Bhawmik in ghoramara area and Prof. Sujit Kumar Sarker in Fudkipar area the same night. Later, on Prof. moloy Kumar Bhawmik was arrested by the joint forces from RU campus at about 4.45pm.

RU sources said joint forces raided the residence of Prof. Saidur Rahman in Bihas area of the city and arrested him at about 3am.

At the same time, the joint forces also arrested Sobhan, a professor of Applied Physics ans Electronics department and convener of Progotishil Shikkhak Samaj, from his residence on the campus.

The joint force also raided some other residences of the teachers, but could not find them as they went into hiding or managed to flee.

Meanwhile, the families are worrying about the two Dhaka University teachers joint forces picked up from the teachers' quarters on Fuller Road.

"We are in the dark about my father's life and whereabouts now," Dipannita Hossain, daughter of Anwar Hossain, said to bdnews24.com over telephone Friday.

Harun-or-Rashid's son Ishtiaque Rashid said shortly after the arrest the joint forces had told him they would take him to Shahbagh Police Station.

But duty officer Jamaluddin told bdnews24.com at 1:00am Friday that none of them was detained at their police station.

"My father goes to bed early. We got scared when our door bell rang. We opened the door and some members of the joint forces asked me to call up my sleeping father," said Dipannita.

"When my father got up and came to the drawing room, the troops said he would have to accompany them to the Shahbagh Police Station."

"The security personnel also took my father's computer and mobile phone while he was being led away."

Dipannita said they were worried about her father's whereabouts.

Prof Harun-or-Rashid's daughter Barnali Harun and son Ishtiaque said they were not aware of their father's whereabouts since his arrest

Sanjana Sobhan, daughter of Prof Sobhan, said the RAB members took her father away at about 2.45am saying they needed to talk to him. They would not say whether there was any allegation against him.

Duty officer of Motihar Police Station sub-inspector Habibur Rahman said none of the detainees were turned in to them.

Motihar Police Station sub-inspector Farukh Hossain filed a case Wednesday night accusing 2500 unnamed people of staging protests and vandalising and ransacking at Rajshahi University. Police, however, did not arrest anybody.

Army personnel patrolling the Dhaka University campus during the relaxed period of curfew on Friday.
—OBSERVER