

DGFI VEHICLE TORCHING CASE

Agitation at RU on for release of 10 students

Tougher programmes likely from today

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday continued their demonstration on the campus demanding release of 10 convicted students and

an employee of the university in DGFI vehicle torching case.

They are also demanding withdrawal of the case filed by RU authorities against the students for their alleged involvement in inci-

ents of violent on the campus on August 23.

The students staged the demonstrations after attending classes wearing black badges.

The students staged as sit-in

programme on Shahidullah Arts Building premises wearing black badges.

They carried banners and placard to press their demands that also include release of four Dhaka University teachers and students.

During the sit-in, the students presented 'anti-repression' songs and recited poems.

Speakers at the sit-in called upon the the RU authorities to withdraw the case filed on August 23 and threatened of tougher agitation from today for non-compliance.

The students also threatened to call a strike on the campus if their demand is not met by today.

Later in the afternoon, the students formed a human chain and stages another sit-in on Rabindra Arts building premises.

During the human chain, the students took an oath to continue their protest until the 10 students and the employee are released.

Newly formed Students Against Repression (SAR), a platform of left leaning student organizations, also called upon the RU authorities to withdraw the case.

The students under the banner of SAR expressed solidarity to other students' demands and said they will also launch agitation after January 15.

Their programme will include a token-hunger strike, sources said.

A large number of policemen were deployed on the campus to avert any untoward incident.



Rajshahi University students stage demonstration on the campus yesterday for release of 10 RU students and a staff. PHOTO: STAR

DEFAMATION SUIT BY VC

Arrest warrant against RU senior teacher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court yesterday issued arrest warrant against a Rajshahi University teacher in a defamation suit filed by the vice-chancellor.

CMM Rejaul Karim issued the arrest warrant against history teacher M Faruk-uz Zaman after police report said that RU VC Prof Dr M Altaf Hossain's allegations against him (Faruk-uz Zaman) made in suit were correct.

In his allegation, the VC said the teacher tried to defame him and also threatened him.

Faruk-uz-Zaman on July 7 last year sent memoranda to the Chief Adviser of caretaker government, education adviser, University Grants Commission (UGC) chairman and the RU VC containing allegations of irregularities against the VC and demanding his resignation.

The VC then lodged a defamation suit in August last year, claiming that his reputation as a teacher was damaged by the 'false propaganda' and that he felt threatened.

The court then asked police to probe the matter.

"I lodged the case as a professor, not as the VC. It (the letter) was very offending ... His language was so attacking", VC Prof Dr Altaf told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

"My complaint was aimed at ensuring safety of all teachers and fostering good relations among them so that one can respect the other", he said.

Faruk-uz-Zaman, a senior teacher, in his memoranda alleged that the VC recruited more than 500 teachers, officials and employees on political considerations by violating UGC directives.

Appointment of three close relatives of the VC including his son-in-law as lecturers, appointment of pro-Jamaat teacher Prof Nazrul Islam as a professor at the Education and Research Institute, promotion of a pro-Jamaat assistant registrar to the post of registrar without selection committee meeting and re-appointment of some former deans after expiry of their tenure were among the allegations made by Faruk-uz-Zaman, his lawyer Aslam Sarker said.