

RU rioting triggers widespread tensions

All edn instts closed sine die in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Mar 14—Higher education here took a knock with all universities, institutes and colleges declared closed Saturday for an indefinite period amid widespread tensions following Friday's clashes at Rajshahi University that left a Shibir leader dead, reports UNB.

Rajshahi University, Rajshahi Medical College and Rajshahi College were closed Friday in the wake of the RU campus rioting. All other universities and colleges throughout the city, including Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (RUET), Rajshahi New Government Degree College, Polytechnic Institute, the Institute of Health Technology (IHT) and Government City College, shut down Saturday.

The students were also asked to vacate their dormitories, as a precautionary measure for maintaining calm on the campuses.

"Academic activities in the divisional city came to a standstill following the shutdown of the higher educational institutions," says a firsthand report from UNB correspondent MA Razzak, quoting academics.

Rajshahi New Government Degree College authorities declared the institution closed sine die after an emergency meeting at 10am.

The other institutions were declared closed after holding meetings by their respective authorities.

RUET Vice-chancellor Dr Fazlul Bari said the engineering university was closed "to keep the situation under control".

Principal of the Polytechnic Institute Dr AKM Javedul Abedin said the decision to

close his institute was taken observing the overall situation. But the examinations will be held as per the previous schedule.

Students of these educational institutions started leaving their halls today after the announcement of closure.

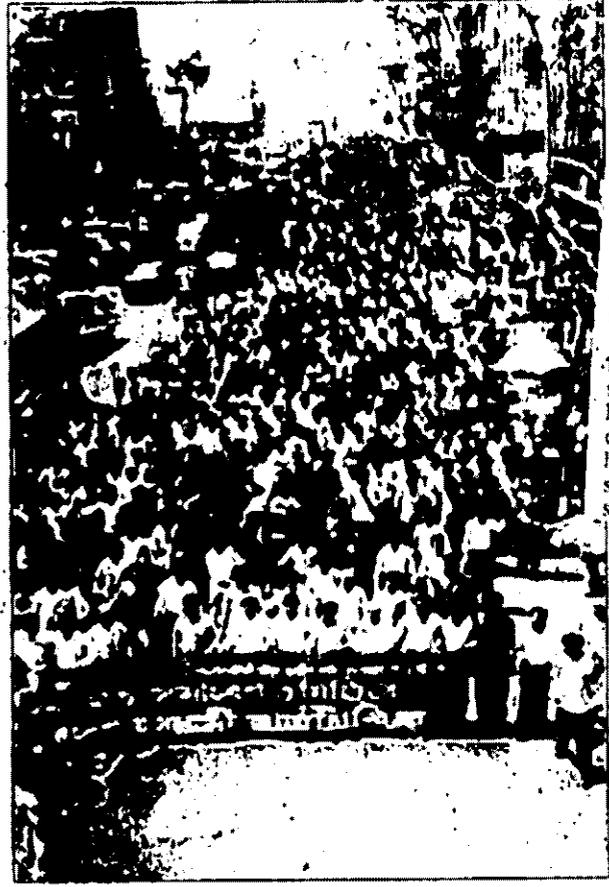
Worries gripped the students as well as their guardians as an uncertainty has been created in their aca-

demie life due to the unscheduled closure of their educational institutions.

Rajshahi University unit secretary of Islami Chhatra Shibir Sharifuzzaman Noman was killed and over 100 other people were injured in sporadic clashes between the cadres of Bangladesh Chhatra League and the ICS on the university campus Friday.

Campus sources said Ra-

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Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir brought out a procession in protest against the killing of Chhatra Shibir leader Sharifuzzaman Noman by Chhatra League activists at Rajshahi University campus in the city on Saturday.

—OBSERVER

All edn instts

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Rajshahi University Vice-Chancellor Dr Abdus Sobhan held several meetings with hall provosts and high officials of the administration on Saturday morning trying to get to grips with the situation in the aftermath of Friday's violent clashes that also left over a hundred people wounded.

Divisional commissioner Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, deputy commissioner Shefaul Karim and metropolitan police commissioner Mahbub Mohsin were among others present.

Besides, an emergency meeting was to be held at the senate building after 7pm.

Meanwhile, a murder case was filed with Motihar thana today against 27 persons, including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon, over the death of Islami Chhatra Shibir secretary Sharifuzzaman Noman.

Police said Islami Chhatra Shibir RU unit organising secretary Forhad Hossain filed the case this noon, describing what happened to them.

The plaintiff alleged that BCL "cadres held hostage" some ICS activists, including himself, in the university dormitory. When Noman had rushed to their rescue, some "Chhatra League cadres stabbed him mercilessly," he

stated. Fatally injured, the Shibir secretary later succumbed to his injuries at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Meanwhile, Rajshahi University campus situation looked almost peaceful today with the presence of police patrols all over the campus and adjacent areas.

Female students left their five dorms Friday and Saturday while all of the male students had left their halls Friday.