

ACID ATTACK ON ROKEYA UNIV TEACHERS Three BCL men held

Our Correspondent · Rangpur

THE police in Rangpur arrested three Chhatra League activists on Friday in a case filed in connection with acid being thrown on teachers of Begum Rokya University, rallying for the removal of the vice-chancellor, on Thursday.

Tuhin Wadud, one of the two teachers sustained acid burns, filed the case against 30 people, including nine named Chhatra League activists.

Kotwali police inspector (investigation) Abdul Latif Miah said that they had arrested the three Chhatra League activists in the case filed by the teacher. The arrested are Shishir, Hadi and Ali Raj.

At least 15, including six teachers of the university were injured as Chhatra League activists loyal to the vice-chancellor threw acid at and beat teachers and students rallying for the removal of the vice-chancellor that led to the closure of the university for an indefinite period.

The vice-chancellor at a press conference on Friday brushed aside the allegations of Chhatra League activists being involved in throwing acid on teachers.

He claimed that acid of the battery of the PA system on the stage where teach-

ers and students had sat in somehow spilled over onto the teachers during an altercation with Chhatra League activists who were making preparations for another programme marking the homecoming of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the same place.

The teachers who had been on strike and had been rallying since January 6 for an immediate removal of the vice-chancellor, Abdul Jalil Miah over allegations of corruption said that they would continue with their movement until their demands were met.

The teachers will form a human chain in front of the local press club in the city today to push for their demands.

At the press conference,

The vice-chancellor at the press conference on Friday, meanwhile, said that some teachers began the movement after the university authorities cancelled the affiliation of the North Bengal Institute of Development Studies in line with their demands.

When his attention was called to the incident of acid throwing, he brushed aside the allegation. The acid of the battery of the PA system being used by the teachers somehow spilled over onto

them during an altercation with Chhatra League activists who were making preparations for a programme marking the homecoming of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the same venue.

'The injury is not critical. We talked with the physicians treating the teachers,' the vice-chancellor said.

The teachers of the university teamed up as Durmi Birodhi Mancha vowed to continue with their movement.

They held the vice-chancellor responsible for the attack and said that Chhatra League activists loyal to the vice-chancellor had thrown acid at the protests of teachers and students.

M Hafizur Rahman, a teacher of mathematics, at a press conference accused the vice-chancellor of being involved in corruption, irregularities and nepotism.

'The vice-chancellor has illegally approved the affiliation of the institute and the institute has already published advertisement for student admission,' he added.

Asked about the cancellation of the affiliation, he said, 'It was a trick of the vice-chancellor. He cancelled the affiliation two times amid protests but the institute is still affiliated to the university.'