

## Police firing at RU challenged at HC

'BCL man' held in Rajshahi city with  
pistol used in attack on students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fourteen educationists and rights activists jointly filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday, challenging the legality of the police firing on the Rajshahi University students who were staging a peaceful protest on the campus on February 2.

They prayed to the court to ask the government to explain why police shot at the students, and to explain whether the relevant rules of firing were followed. They also urged an HC

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## Police firing at RU challenged

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rule upon the government to explain why the police firing should not be declared illegal.

On February 2, police fired rubber bullets and teargas on the students fleeing an armed onslaught by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists, leaving over 100 students injured.

The students were protesting evening master's programmes and hikes in some fees.

Afterwards, the campus was vacated and shut for an indefinite period.

Writ petitioners' counsel Jyotirmoy Barua told The Daily Star that the HC might hold the hearing on February 23.

The petitioners include Prof Akmal Hossain, Prof Anu Muhammad, Prof Rafiqullah Khan, Prof Meghna Guhathakurta, and Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir.

**'BCL MAN' HELD WITH ARMS**

Meanwhile, police claimed that they

arrested a BCL activist in Rajshahi city yesterday with one of the firearms seen during the February 2 RU violence.

Tariqul Islam, 20, of Baliapukur in the city, is a member of the city unit, said Saidur Rahman, Detective Branch inspector of Rajshahi city police.

Rajshahi city unit BCL President Shafikuzzaman, however, denied the arrested youth's association with BCL.

A pistol, six bullets and two magazines were seized from his possession, said Saidur.

A DB team arrested him around 8:00am in Mohisbathan Purbopara road area on information.

Tariqul said an RU BCL leader gave him the pistol to keep it safe, said DB Sub-inspector Swapan Sarker.

At least six gun-toting BCL activists were seen at RU on February 2.