

Shibir men assault RU VC, teachers

RU CORRESPONDENT

Shibir cadres assaulted acting Vice Chancellor Prof Mamunul Keramat and other teachers of Rajshahi University yesterday as they tried to talk them into lifting roadblocks they put up on Dhaka-Rajshahi Highway across from the campus.

Several hundred stick-wielding Shibir men, led by their university unit president Delwar Hossain Saidee and general secretary Abdullah al-Nomani, chased the faculty members, threw stones at them and hurled abuses at the proctor, alleging that the university administration failed to ensure their security on the campus.

The acting VC termed the incident regrettable.

The Shibir cadres blocked the busy highway with felled trees from 11:30am for an hour demanding punishment to the locals and businessmen at Binodpur Bazar adjoining the campus who had reportedly beat up two Shibir men on Thursday night.

Sources said the locals flogged the two after seeing them mercilessly beating up a bus helper who

allegedly pocketed the monthly living expenses that the family of one of the students sent through him.

Clashes spread between the Jamaat's student wing and locals following the incident.

The acting vice chancellor and other senior teachers found themselves being manhandled and later chased by Shibir men as they asked them to lift the roadblocks.

Proctor Enamul Haque, who went to the spot along with police shortly after, faced verbal abuses.

Police officials and pro-Jamaat teachers later persuaded the Shibir workers into lifting the roadblocks after assurances that the responsible people, including the bus helper, would be arrested within 24 hours and that the cheated student would get compensation.

Police arrested the bus helper and a restaurant owner at Binodpur.

Shibir president Saidee told reporters that "general students" became unruly seeing the acting VC and other faculty members for the university administration's failure to ensure security for them on the campus.