

## RU teachers for no police on campus

RU Correspondent

THE teachers of Rajshahi University on Thursday demanded removal of all the law enforcers from the campus, alleging that the police were engaged in and incited violence on the campus.

They also demanded withdrawal of the ban enforced by the RU authorities since 2009 on holding political activities on the campus.

A group of university teachers representing a platform, the Independent Teachers Network, expressed their demands at a press briefing at Rabindra Arts Building on campus on Thursday afternoon.

Withdrawal and punishment of Abul Hasnat, an assistant commissioner of the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, was also demanded at the briefing, with accusations that he led the Wednesday's attack on the procession the leftist students brought out on the campus.

The platform further asked for an amendment to the University Act of 1973, saying that the existing provisions concentrated too

much power in the hand of the vice-chancellor, raising the risk of its abuse.

Salim Reza Newton, Abdullah-al-Mamun and Kazi Mamun Haidar of mass communication and journalism, Sushmita Chakrabarty of folklore studies, Bokhtiyar Ahmed of anthropology, Ali Reza Opu of management studies and Shaila Tasmin and Kazi Shusmin Afsana of theatre and music department spoke at the briefing, among others.

Condemning the Wednesday's police attack on the students' procession, they said law enforcers had no right to torture students.

The police are seen in action only when the leftist and the general students launch movement to protect the interest of the general students, the speakers observed at the briefing.

They also blamed the police for their alleged backing of the Bangladesh Chhatra League activists in beating up the demonstrators on Wednesday.

They alleged that the police kept silent when the BCL activists openly flashed their firearms in a clash with Islami

Chhatra Shibir activists on October 2.

Having denounced the existing ban on political activities on Rajshahi University campus, they said it went against the very concepts and thoughts behind the establishment of public universities.

Earlier on May 12, 2009, the RU authorities came out with a 15-point order that included a ban on political activities on the campus, following a clash between BCL and Shibir on March 13 the same year that claimed the latter's university unit general secretary Sharifuz-zamna Numani.

Point 1(d) of the 15-point order says 'holding any kind of meeting, procession and gathering, hanging banners, pasting postures, doing campaign and distributing leaflets are prohibited on the campus until a fresh order is given.'

The Progressive Student Alliance on Thursday submitted a memorandum with a four-point demand to vice-chancellor Abdus Sobhan.

Their demands include immediate action against ASP Abul Hasnat, with-

drawal of the police from the campus, withdrawal of the ban on politics on the campus and holding the election to the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union.

On Wednesday, eight demonstrators were injured in the attack allegedly by the police while the leftist students were holding a procession in protest at the attack on their fellows at Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh.

According to media reports, BCL men reportedly launched the attack on Tuesday.

The five leftist student alliance leaders arrested by the Motihar police from the procession were released later.