

# Yet another RU teacher murdered

*IS claims responsibility, murder sparks protests*

SM Atik and Sujon Ali  
Rajshahi

ASSAILANTS hacked to death Rajshahi University English professor AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee on Saturday morning near his house in Rajshahi city, around 17 months after assailants had killed another teacher of the university near his house on the city outskirts.

The local police primarily suspect Islamist extremists behind the murder having similarities with the nature of attacks carried out in recent times on bloggers and secular writers.

Siddiquee, 58, came under attack at Shalbagan Battala crossing under Boalia police station, just 200 yards

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AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee

## 4 RU teachers killed in 12 yrs

SM Atik and Sujon Ali

WITH the latest incident of killing on Saturday, at least four Rajshahi University teachers were murdered in the last 12 years.

Professor AFM Rezaul  
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# Yet another RU teacher

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off his house, while he was going to catch a university bus to go to the campus.

A 22-year female, who happened to witness the incident from her house's balcony, said two young men in a motorcycle attacked the professor, also a cultural activist, from behind around 7:35am.

They hacked his neck indiscriminately, leaving him dead on the spot and sped away in the bike.

Police said they found the body of Rezaul, a lover of art and music, lying at a narrow lane near his house.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police commissioner Md Shamsuddin told New Age that there were similarities among the killings of Professor Rezaul, bloggers and another RU professor Shafiul Islam, who was killed in 2014, as they were attacked with sharp weapons from behind.

'So we primarily think it is an act of an Islamist extremist group,' he added.

Middle East-based militant group Islamic State claimed responsibility for the murder of Professor Rezaul.

United States-based terrorism monitoring group SITE Intelligence Group in a twitter said, '#ISIS' Amaq Agency reported the group's responsibility for killing Rajshahi Univ. prof. Rezaul Karim for "calling to atheism" in #Bangladesh.

The incident sparked protests on the campus, elsewhere in the country and abroad.

Several hundred students of the university blocked the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in front of the university for half an hour from 10:15am while teachers of all departments boycotted classes in protest at the killing.

The law enforcement

agencies, however, could not confirm the motive behind the killing immediately.

A case was filed with the Boalia police by the victim's family, accusing unidentified miscreants, officer-in-charge Shahadat Hossain said. But none was arrested so far, according to the police.

Siddiquee's wife Hosne Ara Shira said after finishing breakfast with family members, wearing a white shirt and deep blue pants, with a side bag hanging on his shoulder, he left the house around 7.30am.

She said he was a well-behaved man having no enemy or trouble with anyone.

The murder took place 17 months after RU sociology department professor AKM Shafiul Islam was hacked to death by assailants near his house at Chauddapai on the outskirts of Rajshahi city on November 16, 2014.

In the past 12 years, assailants killed a total of four teachers of the university.

Associate professor of English Abdullah Al Mamun, once a student of Rezaul Karim at the same department, said that Professor Rezaul had no affiliation with any political parties and never wrote for any blog.

Beyond his identity as a teacher, he was a passionate lover of art and music. Abdullah described

The RMP commissioner and RAB commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Mahbub Hossain visited the house of Rezaul and talked to the family members.

Mahbub Hossain said they were also conducting a 'shadow' investigation to find out the reason behind the murder.

Family members said Rezaul Karim used to play sitar, was an amateur pho-

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