

RU TEACHER KILLING

Ex-schoolteacher, son picked up by police

Our Correspondent
Rajshahi

POLICE picked up a retired schoolteacher and his son from their Shreepur village home of Baghmara in Rajshahi on early Friday relating to killing of Rajshahi University English department teacher AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee, family members said.

Abdul Hakim, 63, a former teacher of Baghmara Pilot High school, and his younger son Ariful Islam, an eleventh grader at Baghmara Degree College, did not return home until Friday night after plain-clothed policemen had picked them up, said Isahaq Ali, a younger

brother of Hakim.

Isahaq Ali told New Age that a group of people claiming themselves as policemen came to their house as his brother was preparing for faza prayer and nephew Ariful was sleeping.

They looked for Hakim's eldest son, Shariful Islam, a third-year student of English department at RU, the sibling brother said.

As they could not see Shariful, they picked up his elder brother Hakim and nephew Ariful, he added.

The officer-in-charge of Baghmara police, Matiar Rahman, however, told New Age that they did not detain any of them and had no information if any of the law

enforcing agencies got them.

The family was yet to file any general diary or case in this connection.

On April 23 assailants hacked to death AFM Rezaul Karim Siddiquee of Baghmara, near his home in Rajshahi city's Shalbagan area.

With this latest fatal offense, at least four Rajshahi University teachers had been murdered in the past 12 years.

In Dhaka, former students of Rajshahi University on Friday formed a human chain and staged demonstration amid cultural programme in front of national museum in the city, demanding justice.

They also condemned

murders of independent thinkers and accused the government of failing to stop the religious fanatics. They said the extremists are pursuing a lone mission—eliminating free thinkers.

Talking to New Age, a former RU student Utshab Mossaddek, said that the killing was a reflection of serious threats to freedom of expression in Bangladesh.

'I am trembling in pain, agony, anger, tear and loss. A harmless and non-political person like professor Siddiquee was murdered in broad daylight,' said another former student of the varsity's English department, Mustafizur Rahman.