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UGC begins probe into Gopalganj university protests, students for PM's intervention

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 12:40am on September 25, 2019

The University Grant Commission on Tuesday instituted probe into the student unrest at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science and Technology University in Gopalganj. A five-member committee headed by UGC member Alamgir Hossain has been asked to submit the probe report in seven days.

On the 7th day of the unrest, the students demanded the prime minister's intervention and removal of vice-chancellor Khondokar Nasiruddin.

The students took to the streets against Nasir for his alleged involvement in corruption, misuse of power, autocratic behaviour, sexual harassment of female students and other irregularities.

The UGC instituted the investigation after the Department of Secondary and Higher Education in a letter wanted to know from it, 'What's happening in Gopalganj.'

The probe committee includes M Sazzad Hossain, Dil Afroz, both UGC members, M Kamal Hossain a director and Mouli Azad a deputy director.

From a press conference in front of the Academic Building on the campus, protesters under the banner of 'General Students of BSMRSTU' brought 14 specific allegations against Nasir.

The allegations include sexual harassment of female students, nepotism in recruitment of teachers and employees, corruption in BSMRSTU Further Development Project and expulsion of students on flimsy grounds.

On Tuesday, the students held their protest demonstration braving inclement weather to press the demand of the VC's sacking.

Nearly 500 students are staying in front of the administrative building round the clock to press their demands.

At least 15 teachers are staying with the protestors to ensure their safety.

During Tuesday's demonstrations at least two students, English Department's Mahmud Sheikh and Agriculture Department's Semanto fell sick and were admitted to Gopalganj General Hospital.

Female students took out a procession holding brooms in protest against Nasir's statement in a TV interview that the students were continuing their movement only because they 'see themselves on TV screen.'

During the interview, VC Nasir also said that he could solve the unrest just in two hours if media stopped providing coverage to it.

He alleged that the students were staying on the campus at night to engage in indecent activities in and around the bushes.

'How can a Vice-Chancellor make such a statement? We requested him to come here and see what we were actually doing,' said Shafiqul Islam a third year law student.

On Monday night, lecturer Humayun Kabir who resigned as an assistant proctor in protest against Saturday's attacks on the students, filed a general diary with Gopalganj Sadar Police seeking security of his own life.

In the GD, he complained that some of the teachers backed by the VC threatened him with dire consequences while some others intimidated him on the facebook during their slander campaigns.

On September 21, the university authorities shut down the seat of learning until October 3 but the protesters are holding their demonstrations refusing to leave the campus as ordered.



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