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RU teacher holds solo sit-in over attack on students

Staff Correspondent . Rajshahi | Published at 12:39am on March 15, 2023



A Rajshahi University teacher on Tuesday staged a solo sit-in on campus for one hour protesting at the attack on the university students by local traders, residents and the police on Saturday evening.

Several students also took part in the protest by expressing solidarity with professor Md Farid Uddin Khan of economics department, who was barefoot while staging protest at the university's Shaheed Shamsuzzoha graveyard.

Prof Farid said that the university administration and the police got ample time to control the Saturday's incident regardless of the reason, but they failed to carry out their duties, resulting in grave consequences.

'I am here to protest at the heinous attacks by local terrorists and police on the students. I am sorry as a parent because we could not provide the students with security,' he added.

Eight student organisations of the university in a press release on Tuesday alleged that leaders and activists of the ruling Awami League, its youth front Juba League and student wing Chhatra League along with local traders attacked the students on Saturday evening.

‘It was mainly the clash between RU unit Chhatra League and local traders which was later joined by local AL, JL, and BCL activists by taking the traders’ side,’ said the press statement.

The university students joined the clash after a rumor that general students were attacked by local traders, it added.

According to the organisations, the BCL activists led by Mannujan Hall unit president Zannat Zara allegedly blocked the rail tracks near the fine arts department and turned the peaceful movement of students into violence on Sunday.

The Bangladesh Railway authorities also filed a case on Monday night against 300 unnamed people for setting the rail tracks on fire near the university fine arts faculty and removing sleepers and pandrol clips on Sunday night.

Bhavesh Chandra Rajbanshi, senior sub-assistant engineer of the railway, filed the case with the Rajshahi railway police on Monday evening, said western railway general manager Asim Kumar Talukder.

He added that the agitating students set the rail tracks on fire.

A total of 92 pandrol clips and one steel sleeper were stolen while three wooden sleepers completely damaged, said Asim.

RU students clashed with traders and local people on Saturday evening following an altercation between a student and a bus worker over bus fare, leaving at least 200 students and ten local residents injured.

Seven platoons of BGB members were deployed in the area around 10:30pm on the day to bring the situation under control while 120 members of the Rapid Action Battalion also joined the move.

The police later fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the clashing groups leaving at least twenty students injured.

Following the clash, the RU authority suspended all academic activities for Sunday and Monday.

The university administration and the police filed two cases over the clash.



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