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# RU mayhem leaves Binodpur traders in ruins

[Anwar Ali](#)

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Photo: Anwar Ali/Star

**Trades of Binodpur Bazar near Rajshahi University are at a loss after their shops were burnt to the ground on Saturday and they have no way**

**of getting compensation.**

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"I have not been able to sleep a wink since the night my store was destroyed in the arson attack," said 52-year-old Zahangir Alam, whose store was among those burned down in the clash near the Rajshahi University campus on Saturday.

Alam his brother Zafar Ali used to run their business but since his brother's death in May last year, Zahangir was forced to become the lone breadwinner for an extended family of 14.

Thursday, March 16, 2023



The Daily Star

E-paper

Today's News

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Over 220 people were injured after students of Rajshahi University fought running battles with locals and police in Binodpur area near the campus on Saturday evening over trifles.



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## 200 injured as RU students clash with locals

Zahangir suffered a loss of Tk 7 lakh including Tk 3.5 lakh in cash from his mobile banking business that he operated from the store, which was burnt and looted during the arson attack.

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"I had to watch as the attackers damaged my shop, took away goods and then set it on fire. I could do nothing," he said.

Zahangir had borrowed Tk 3 lakh from a bank and Tk 2.5 lakh from a micro-credit lending organisation to run his business and was paying off the loan in instalments.

Like him, at least 80 small traders of Binodpur Bazar have been severely affected by the incident with a combined estimated loss of nearly Tk 1 crore, said Shahidul Islam, president of Binodpur Bazar Small Traders Association.

Photo: Anwar Ali/Star

At least 45 shops were destroyed, while 35 other shops were looted and damaged during Saturday night's arson attacks and clashes, Shahidul said.

"The students of the university are our customers. Our livelihood depends on them. We never dishonour or disrespect them, yet it was us traders who had to suffer the impact of Saturday's incident," Shahidul added.

He also expressed fear that the law enforcers may harass them as three cases were filed against 1,100 unnamed persons.

Binodpur Bazar, once a lively market, now appears ghostly and completely devoid of life.

 Normal activities resume at RU

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**RU clash: Normal activities resume on campus**