Titumir College protesters withdraw blockade after 5 hours



Photo: Prabir Das

Students of Titumir College withdrew their road and rail blockade at Dhaka's Mohakhali around 4:00pm today.

Around two thousand students of the college blocked the Mohakhali intersection at around 11:15am, demanding that the government upgrade Titumir College into a university.



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The blockade caused untold sufferings for the city commuters as all vehicles were forced to become standstill on roads surrounding the college.

At around 4:00pm, students left Mohakhali area and went back to their college campus, reports our correspondent.

Students of Titumir College have repeatedly staged road blockades in recent months, demanding the college be upgraded to a university and the formation of a Titumir University Commission.

The students said they will come up with fresh programmes later.

Read more

Students demand separate university



Commuters suffer as Mohakhali intersection choked

The road from Mohakhali to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport was completely blocked on both sides, causing huge suffering for commuters.

Due to the students' blockade, traffic came to a halt on both sides of the road from Mohakhali to the airport.

With no vehicles available, many people were forced to walk to their destinations.



Commuters were seen walking along the roads as traffic movement came to a halt. Photo: Prabir Das

Traffic came to a halt in the Mirpur area, with vehicles on the Begum Rokeya Sarani stuck in place for hours, eyewitnesses said.

Traffic also backed up on the link road between Agargaon and the Chief Adviser's Office.

Eyewitnesses said that while both the Mohakhali flyover and the road below were closed to traffic, the elevated expressway, however, remained operational.

They also mentioned that the protesters were only allowing ambulances and CNG-run autorickshaws carrying patients to pass through.

Rail operations interrupted for over four hours

No trains were seen passing through Mohakhali while the blockade was in place.



Protesters were seen hurling brick chips at a train as it was passing Mohakhali. Photo: Prabir Das

"Railway operations resumed after over four hours at 4:10pm. However, all the trains to and from Dhaka got delayed due the blockade," Khairul Kabir, divisional transport official (Dhaka Division) of Bangladesh Railway told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Zoynal Abedin, officer in charge of Dhaka Railway Police Station, said a group of students attacked Upakul Express around 11:30am, damaging several windows of the inter-city train.