

STUDENTS' AGAINST DISCRIMINATION: Students block highway demanding cancellation of Rajshahi city, district committees

Staff Correspondent . Rajshahi  17 February, 2025, 01:34

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A group of students on Sunday staged demonstrations by blocking the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in Rajshahi city, demanding the cancellation of newly announced Rajshahi city and district unit committees of the Students' Against Discrimination.

About one hundred of them blocked the highway at the Talaimari intersection in the city to press home their demand, causing huge traffic congestion on both sides of the highway.

Shahadat Hossain, a final year student of Rajshahi College who participated in the blockade, said that the committees were formed with individuals linked to the banned Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the Awami League, and those who had no involvement in the movement during the July-August mass uprising.

Another protester Hafiz Sarkar, a third-year political science student of the college, alleged that controversial individuals and figures accused of extortion and power abuse during the AL autocratic regime were included in the 'pocket committee' in exchange for money.

Master's student Abdur Rahim threatened that they would go for a tougher movement if Rajshahi city and district committees were not immediately dissolved and a new committee with those who were directly involved during the mass uprising were formed.

Later, the protesting students postponed their blockade at 12:30pm.

Earlier on January 30, the Students' Against Discrimination, a platform that led the July uprising and ousted Sheikh Hasina-led government, announced a 115-member Rajshahi city unit committee with East West University student Al Ashrarul Imam as convener and Rajshahi College student Hazrat Anas as member secretary.

On the same day, it also announced a 148-member committee for Rajshahi district unit with Rajshahi College student Nahidul Islam as convener and Rajshahi Government Teachers' Training College student Mohammad Rahmatullah as member secretary.

Since the announcement of the committees, students who failed to secure a place in the committees had been staging demonstrations, demanding cancellation of the committees.

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