

RU students protest reinstatement of ward quota

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Demonstrators allege move aims to obstruct Rucsu revival



Photo: Star

Students at Rajshahi University (RU) are protesting in front of the vice-chancellor's residence tonight, rejecting the reinstatement of the Ward Quota for university admissions.

Earlier in the evening, the university's Public Relations Office issued a press release announcing that the Admission Sub-Committee for the 2024-25 academic year had decided to reintroduce the quota.

According to the notice, only biological or legally born children of RU teachers, officers, and employees would be eligible. Applicants must meet the advertised qualifications and departmental requirements, and merit lists will still be prepared based on obtained marks. A maximum of two students may be admitted per department under the quota, excluding the department where their guardian works.

Students admitted under this quota will be barred from applying for residential hall seats and cannot change departments except through the "auto migration" process. Proven irregularities will result in admission cancellation and disciplinary action against the guardian.

Rejecting the decision, students launched protest rallies, joined by members of political groups including Islami Chhatra Shibir and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Al Shahriar Shuvo, General Secretary of the RU unit of the Student Rights Council, alleged that the administration's move was intended to obstruct the revival of the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (Rucusu).

He added that their sit-in at the vice-chancellor's residence will go on until they reverse their decision.