

3 RU probe committees yet to submit reports on incidents involving Rucsu GS Ammar

Authorities cite procedural reasons as inquiries into three separate campus incidents remain pending

1 AUGUST 2026, 15:37 PM CAMPUS

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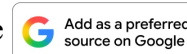
Nur Ahsan Mridul



Three inquiry committees formed by Rajshahi University (RU) to investigate separate campus incidents involving Rucsu General Secretary Salahuddin Ammar have yet to submit their reports, although two of the inquiries began more than a year ago.

As the current Rucsu general secretary is linked to all three incidents in different capacities, the prolonged delays have raised questions on campus.

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Salahuddin Ammar

University authorities and committee members, however, attributed the delays to procedural reasons and said the inquiries are still ongoing.

The oldest committee was formed after students demanding the abolition of the ward quota locked the university's Administrative Building on January 2 last year.

Another committee was later formed over allegations that protesting students confined the pro-vice chancellor and several senior university officials during demonstrations linked to the same movement.

The latest inquiry was launched after two RU students were allegedly assaulted and harassed on July 27 in an incident involving Salahuddin Ammar and leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Registrar Prof Iftikharul Alam Masud told The Daily Star that the second committee, headed by Prof M Fakrul Islam, was initially intended as a judicial inquiry.

"Later, the committee informed us that this was not a matter for a judicial inquiry because it was clearly a criminal offence. Such incidents require a criminal case. We planned to file a case after receiving the committee's report, but the report was never submitted," he said.

Asked why the first report had not been submitted more than a year and a half after the incident, committee chief Prof F Nazrul Islam said the panel had almost completed its work.

"The report is nearly ready. Some members suggested that the recommended punishments should be described more specifically before it is placed before the syndicate. That is why it has not yet been submitted. We hope to submit it within August," he said.

Prof M Fakrul Islam said his committee had completed its work.

He claimed that after the committee completed its report, members were told it no longer needed to be submitted to the syndicate. He added that no further progress was made after that, and the report was ultimately never submitted.

On the latest inquiry, committee chief Prof Rezaul Karim said members had already visited the scene.

"Our appointment letter did not specify any deadline. Nevertheless, we want to complete the investigation as quickly as possible. Two members of the committee are currently outside Rajshahi, so the work could not proceed further. We will resume the investigation on Monday," he said.

Pro-Vice Chancellor (Administration) Abdul Alim denied that administrative pressure or a lack of cooperation had delayed the inquiries.

"We have not encountered any pressure or obstruction. The latest committee has not yet begun its work because several of its members are currently outside Rajshahi," he said.

He added that the report on the Administrative Building lock-up incident would also be submitted soon.

