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22 private univ students put on remand

Staff Correspondent | Updated at 02:15am on August 08, 2018



Twenty-two private university students were remanded in police custody for two days for interrogation as 34 cases were filed till Tuesday evening with different police stations in Dhaka over violence during protests for road safety launched by school and college students.

Dhaka metropolitan magistrate Abdullah Al Masud remanded 22 students of North South, East West, South East and Brac universities in custody in two cases filed with Badda and Bhatara police stations over violence triggered by attacks on protesting students reportedly by ruling Awami League and its front body activists.

Of them, 14 students were produced before the court by Badda police station while eight others by Bhatara police station.

The students were crying when they were taken to the dock seeking them in custody and their defence counsels told the court that the students were tortured in custody and many were arrested when they were returning home after attending their classes.

Defence counsel AKM Muhiuddin Faruk argued that police arrested innocent students and tortured them in custody.

The defence counsel Kabir Hossain of East West University student Redwan Ahmed argued that police tortured him and broke his hand. Third party was conspiring but the police were arresting innocent youths instead of arresting perpetrators, he contended.

At least 34 cases were filed till Tuesday evening with different police stations in Dhaka metropolitan area against hundreds of people over violence during the protests for road safety launched by school and college students on July 29.

Five of the 34 cases were filed with Ramna, Uttara Paschim and Roopnagar police stations under Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act and six people, including internationally acclaimed photographer Shahidul Alam, were arrested.

Of the rest 29 cases, police officials filed four with Dhanmondi police station, three each with Mathijheel and Cantonment police stations, two each with Shahbagh, New Market, Uttara Purba, Palton, Badda, and Jatrabari police stations, and one each with Ramna, Rampura, Tejgaon, Kotwali, Khilkhet, Bhatara and Dhaka Airport police stations.

On Monday, 14 people were arrested in the four cases filed with Dhanmondi police station.

The cases were filed against how many named and unnamed people could not be confirmed.

None of the cases were, however, filed for attacks on journalists who were covering violence and attacks by the ruling Awami League and its front body activists in the presence of police.

Police officials said that three cases were filed with Dhanmondi police station on Saturday and Sunday against more than 1,000 unnamed people over the violence triggered by the attack by AL supporters in helmets on protesting students.

'We have prosecuted no students in these cases but only the attackers who damaged vehicles,' said Dhaka Metropolitan Police Uttara division deputy commissioner Navid Kamal Shoibal.

On August 2, Dhaka Metropolitan Police cyber crime unit prosecuted 28 social media and online news outlets under Section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act accusing them of instigating student protests.

On August 6, the police filed another case against 16 users of different social media platforms.

The police in the first information report said that the accounts of those who liked, shared and posted comments were prosecuted for twisting the demands of innocent students and causing anarchy.

Cyber security team additional deputy commissioner Najmul Islam said that they continued monitoring to stop any sort of 'rumours' hampering state security or causing anarchy.



Editor: **Nurul Kabir**, Published by the Chairman, Editorial Board ASM Shahidullah Khan on behalf of Media New Age Ltd. 30 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 Phone: 880-2-8170450-56 (PABX), Fax: 880-2-8170457

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