

JANUARY 15 1983

## Students angry as leaders back out

# Dhaka University happens

By JAGLUL ALAM

Tension in Dhaka university reached new high on Tuesday, January 11, when a section of students and the student leaders of the co-ordination committee comprising 14 student organizations differed on the issue of observing sit-in strike in front of the secretariat building.

The program was earlier chalked out to press for the annulment of education policy and withdrawal of the recommendations of the enquiry committee on November 8 incident at Dhaka University.

About five thousand students gathered on the varsity campus on January 11 morning. In a brief meeting the leaders of the co-ordination committee proposed to change their program and suggested to lead a procession up to the central shahid minar instead of ghearing the education minister at the secretariat.

But the decision was vehemently opposed by a section of students. They boycotted the meeting, snatched the microphones from the leaders and ransacked the dais.

The dissenting students did not stop there. They manhandled their own leaders, assaulted the photographers and reporters assigned to cover the event and hurled abuses at them. The student leaders who were assaulted, include the DUCSU Vice President Akhtaruzzaman, Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin of Bangladesh Chhatra League (Jalal-Jhangir) faction and Muniruddin Ahmed of JSD's student wing.

Around the same time, a section of students poun-



STUDENT-POLICE FACE-OFF

ced upon the photographer of Ittefaq Rashid Talukdar. When other reporters and photographers attempted to rescue Rashid Talukdar, the entire lot of reporters and photographers were targeted by the unruly students. Those who suffered the wrath of this section of students include Kazi Zawad of Bichitra, Mohammad Alam of Sangbad, Pavel Rahman of the New Nation, Babu Ansari and Hasan Hafiz of Dainik Bangla, Nazimuddin Manik of Kishore Bangla, Alamgir Hossain of Ittefaq and

Zainal Abedin of Bangladesh Times.

Following the ugly pandemonium a group of students left the meeting and started marching toward the central secretariat. The students chanted slogans condemning the education policy, police interference in the varsity campus etc. They also raised slogans criticizing the roles of the leaders of the 14-party students' alliance saying that the leaders betrayed the general students and made some underhand

dealing with the government.

The procession mainly led by Mohan Raihan of the student wing of JSD then marched up to the crossing of the old High Court building. There the procession was prevented by the police. The processionists stayed there for over an hour. They chanted slogans

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of the office damaged.

On the following day different sections of student organisations engaged themselves in minor clashes inside the campus. The student section supporting JSD called for a strike on January 13 at Dhaka University.

### BACKGROUND

The background to this situation dates back to November 8 last year, when the students and police clashed inside the Dhaka University campus. The clash continued for over five hours and more than 100 persons were injured during the brawl.

The police used tear gas shells and resorted to lathi charge and arrested 37 students when the students organized a procession to observe National Revolution Day on November 7.

Following the incident, DUCSU and 14 student organizations observed a Demand Day on November 29 and organized peaceful rallies and demonstrations inside the campus area.

On the night of December 17 two hand bombs were detonated near the Surya Sen Hall of Dhaka University. On the following day the students organized procession inside the university demanding restoration of peaceful academic atmosphere in the educational institutions.

On the same day the co-ordination committee also announced to observe the demand day on January 11 in the educational institutions throughout the country and decided to hold a sit-in strike in front of the Education Ministry at the Secretariat building to press home their demands for withdrawal of the education policy.

### REPORT

On December 30, a three-member committee earlier deputed to enquire into the November 8 situation made public its report.

The report commented that the incident of November 8 would not have been taken such an ugly and violent turn had the DMP kept the varsity authority duly informed about the intention of a section of students to violate Martial Law orders by holding procession and meeting in the campus.

The committee also felt it necessary to upgrade the present Nilkhet police outpost into a full fledged police station covering also the BUET and Dhaka Medical College areas. It also felt that the frequent deployment of police pickets in varsity area on stand-by duties should be avoided as this serves as a standing provocation to the students.

On December 31, the students' co-ordination committee condemned the versions of the report of the enquiry committee. They said that in the report the committee avoided the causes of the happenings of November 8. They rejected the recommendations of the enquiry committee and appealed to the government not to implement the recommendations.

On January 5 the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University held a meeting with the leaders of the co-ordination committee to discuss the overall situation in the campus. During the meeting the Vice-Chancellor asked the students to withdraw the program of January 11. But the meeting concluded with any agreement.

On January 8 the Dhaka University day was observed and a series of seminars, symposiums, exhibitions and other functions were organized. A large number of former and present students of the university attended the celebrations.

On January 9 and 10 the students also observed strikes in Dhaka university organised separately by the BNP student front, Jatiyatabadi, Chhatra Dal.