

# Police truck runs into students rally: 2 killed

By A Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and several others injured when a police truck ran into a procession of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad in front of old Fulbaria railway station in Dhaka on Tuesday evening.

A Press note issued by the Government said three persons came under the wheels of the police truck of whom two died on way to hospital. Two injured persons including the driver of the truck, the Press note added, were admitted to a

## Death accidental: Press Note

Following is the Press Note issued by the Government on the incident at Fulbaria old rail way level crossing in Dhaka on Tuesday afternoon, reports BSS.

"A group of people, being armed with lathis and other lethal weapons took out a procession at about 5.30 p.m. today (Tuesday) and was proceeding from Chankharpool towards the Fulbaria old railway station. The police on mobile duty came across the procession at Fulbaria old railway level crossing. The processionists attacked the police party with heavy brickbatting, as a result the driver of the police truck sustained injury and lost control of the vehicle."

"Unfortunately three persons came under the wheels of the truck out of whom two died while being taken to the hospital. The other injured person and the wounded driver of the police truck have been admitted into the hospital.

"The Government deeply regrets the unfortunate incident which was purely accidental and sympathises with the families of the deceased. A motor accident case has been registered with Ramna police in the connection".

hospital.

The Press Note said the driver lost control of the vehicle.

This correspondent during his visit to the spot immediately after the incident, found a pool of blood on the street.

Despite frantic efforts no senior police official could be contacted till late at night. The Home Minister when contacted at his residence at 10 p.m., an attendant said, "he is at the residence but he will talk tomorrow (Wednesday)".

One Kulsum Bibi 30 an eye witness, said that she saw some bodies of the processionists lying in a pool of blood.

Incidentally the procession was brought out by the Chhatra Sangram Parishad in support of the hartal call on March 1.

During my visit to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the emergency ward told me that one Kumarkanti Das who was injured in the incident came to the hospital and later he was released after first aid.

Sultan, a student who was in the procession, narrating the incident told this correspondent that the van which was following the procession from behind suddenly ran over the processionists.

Earlier, Chhatra Dal, gave a call of strike at Dhaka University on the day demanding release of Chhatra Dal leader Jalal Ahmed.

No class was held in the university and examinations of different departments were also

postponed in the afternoon. The Registrar's office was also closed.

When this correspondent visited the University Arts Building, he was locked from outside in the afternoon by the students who had taken over the keys from the gatekeepers. Chhatra Dal also held protest rally on the campus. Sangram Parishad brought out processions from different halls and paraded some city roads.

Meanwhile, Academic Council of the Dhaka University at a meeting on the day decided to shift the M. A. course final examinations scheduled to be held from March 4 to April next.

The 15-party alliance in a statement on the day said that the people would give a befitting reply if killing and terrorism were not stopped. Condemning the killing of students in a procession at Fulbaria on the day by a police van, the statement said that some students were also arrested from there.

The alliance also condoled the deaths and expressed sympathy with the members of the bereaved families.

Sheikh Hasina Wazed, Chief of Bangladesh Awami League in a statement condemned the incident and demanded the return of the bodies of the students and the release of the injured.

She also demanded punishment of those responsible for the incident.



The gate of the Dhaka University Arts Faculty Building locked on Tuesday.—OBSERVER.