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152 arrested in DU hall raids

By A Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police raided some of the residential halls of Dhaka University early Tuesday morning and claimed to have recovered a huge quantity of unauthorised weapons including fire arms and explosives.

The police arrested 152 persons including some outsiders. The raids were conducted to search the rooms which included some of the locked rooms of the halls according to some students. Many valuables of residential students were missing it is alleged.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a Press release said that a search was conducted in some of the halls and a huge quantity of unauthorised weapons hand-grenades hand bombs crackers and explosives were recovered. The goods were seized under proper seizure list it is claimed. The police Press release said "it was learnt from reliable sources that the miscreants came out of some of the halls of Dhaka University where they had also stored a huge quantity of arms and ammunition for indiscriminate use on any pretext. It was therefore considered expedient to recover these arms and also to apprehend the miscreants to ensure security of students teachers and others who live within the campus".

The DMP Press release further said that some groups of miscreants created a reign of terror around Dhaka University campus through obstruction of vehicular traffic and indiscriminate explosion of lethal weapons. They damaged a good number of vehicles and set fire to eight which were completely burnt.

Mr. Justice Nurul Huq and Mr. Justice Dalluddin of the Supreme Court were also attacked while returning to their residences after attending offices resulting in serious injuries to their persons and damage to their cars it said. The law-enforcing agencies in their bid to prevent the mis-

creants from their nefarious activities came under attack and bombs were hurled at them causing serious injuries to eleven police personnel including one Inspector it stated.

The police however, did not mention whether any formal permission was sought either from University authority or from respective hall authorities.

CSAC demands

Central Students Action Committee (CSAC) of Dhaka University in a statement on Tuesday while condemning the incident made a five-point demand which include resignation of Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and administrative officers of Dhaka University in protest against police action.

The CSAC further said that the police have violated the university autonomy by raids without seeking any permission from the authorities.

The CSAC demands are : ex- See Page 8 Col. 1)

Syndicate demands release of students

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka University Syndicate held on Tuesday demanded immediate release of the students and staff held during Monday night's police raid in the student halls, says a DU Press release.

The syndicate also condemned the police raid and harassment of hall residents.

The meeting was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor. He informed the syndicate members that police and BDR personnel continued a widespread raid from 12 midnight to 3 a.m Monday in five students residential halls and entered rooms breaking open locks. Wrist watches, radios etc. belonging to students were found to be missing and more than 150 students and staff were arrested, he added.

152 arrested

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position of the police attacks of halls through Press conference filing of cases against the law-enforcing agencies who conducted the raid adequate compensation for students affected in the raids and immediate release of residential students and their guests.

The goods missing include blankets wrist watches clothes camera and other valuables prior to the attacks students were chased also in the afternoon.

CSAC brought out a procession in protest against the police action on the campus. The processionists visited different halls beginning from Madhur Resturant in the morning of Tuesday. Later a rally was held in front of the residence of the Vice-Chancellor. CSAC leader Mustaque Hossain addressed it.

Later, a procession of teachers students with the Vice-Chancellor was brought out which visited different halls in protest against the police action.

The Dhaka University Teachers Association in an emergency meeting on Tuesday condemned the raids & harassment in the name of search of halls. Presided over by Professor K.A.M. Saduddin, President of the Association the meeting also condemned the way the police officials behaved with the Provosts and House Tutors of halls during the search. The meeting demanded punishment of those responsible for the police excesses. The meeting demanded release of students, employees and others arrested during the raids and called upon the authorities so that such incident does not repeat.

Central Students Action Committee of Dhaka University in a separate statement protesting in a "repressive measures of the Government" said that it has to bear the responsibility of the consequences. It criticised the government for not allowing seven party leader and BNP chief Khaleda Zia and eight-party alliance leader Sheikh Hasina to address scheduled meetings. CSA C was also critical of arrest of a large number of leaders.

Different organisations in separate statements condemned the police action in halls of Dhaka University and large scale arrest of university students including their guests at late Monday night. They demanded release of all.

The organisations which issued statements are Bangladesh Chhatra League Bangladesher Samaj-antrik Dal (BSD) and Bangladesh Chhatra Union.

Mr. Akhteruzzaman, Vice-President of DUCSU in a statement protested the police action in some of the residential halls of Dhaka University and called for united resistance against such action.

This correspondent made several attempts to contact Professor Abdul Mannan, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University. The Vice-Chancellor who was at his official residence did not respond.