

Transport workers attack MTTC hostel: 100 injured

By A Staff Reporter

About 100 persons including unspecified number of students were injured, rooms of the student hostel of Mirpur Technical Training Centre were set on fire and 30 passenger vehicles were damaged in an incident involving students and transport workers at Darus Salam under Mirpur Police Station on Sunday.

Twenty students of the Mirpur Technical Training Centre were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with multiple injuries. And the belongings to the students of MTTC residing in the hostel were burnt to ashes.

About 35 passengers including three children of the buses damaged in the incident received injuries. Operation of passenger buses of six different routes between Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Mirpur, remained suspended for about three hours beginning from 9 a.m.

The Sunday's incident was the sequel of another incident on Saturday morning. According to students of MTTC, a passenger bus Saturday morn-

ing hit a rickshaw near Asad Gate and speed away. On receipt of a wireless message from a traffic sergeant to Darus Salam Police Box, a traffic constable on-duty intercepted the bus at Darus Salam with the help of some students of MTTC. When the students and the traffic constable were engaged in a brawl on board the bus, the driver suddenly switched on the engine and took

the students and the constable to Gabtali. The driver and the helpers of the bus had beaten up two students and threw them on the road. Later another student was manhandled by the transport workers at Gabtali.

According to Mirpur police the officer-in-charge on Saturday tried to settle the dispute and had talks with the offi-

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cialis of the Dhaka-Aricha Transport Workers Association and the Principal of the MTTC. Both sides were scheduled to meet Sunday.

But, police said, students of MTTC assembled at Darus Salam and started throwing brickbats to passenger bus and mini-buses Sunday morning. At one point, students alleged, several hundred transport workers from Gabtali and Darus Salam armed with lethal weapons attacked the students and the hostel. The attackers set almost all the rooms of the hostel on fire. They brought out books, and other personal belongings of the students from their rooms and burnt those to ashes. Students alleged that the police despite their presence at the scene had not come to the rescue of the students.

The President of the Central Students Action Committee of MTTC in a statement alleged that when the Principal of the Centre and leaders of the transport workers had been holding a meeting for reconciliation, suddenly several hundred transport workers had attacked on the students.

Mirpur police said 27 persons including some students were being interrogated in connection with the incident. The public relations section of the DMP claimed that 8 police personnel were injured, one of the seriously, in the incident. The PR section said that the seriously injured police had been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

But the duty officer of Mirpur police station at 10 p.m. could neither say whether

Rashid, Golam Alauddin, Maszullah, Basu, Mahbubur Rahman, Benu Lekha, Manoj Kumar Das, Anwarul Islam, Jahangir Alam, Shahidullah, Abdul Momen Khan four of the admitted students were discharged under own risks. Ruhul Amin another admitted student was transferred, later, to Pangu Hospital. Mirpur police said that Dhaka-Aricha Transport Workers Association had instituted a case in this connection. Police said that it had transferred seven injured students to DMCH.

Police officials learnt to have been making efforts to bring two sides to an amicable settlement till writing of this report at 10.30 p.m. Sunday.

The Central Students Action Committee, in a statement on Sunday, condemned the attack on the students and demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits.

Notice

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