

Crackdown on students ahead of convocation

20 hurt, over 80 rounded up

By Staff Correspondent

Police cracked down on Opposition-backed student activists in the city yesterday while they were agitating against conferring of honorary doctorate degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by Dhaka University at today's convocation.

The activists were drumming up support for a half-day hartal in the city today, called by the student bodies of opposition parties to protest the DU decision.

JCD President and General Secretary and more than 80 student activists were arrested during the crack down, sources concerned said.

Over 20 activists were injured in the police action, eye witnesses said.

Five vehicles were set afire during clashes between activists and police in different parts of the city.

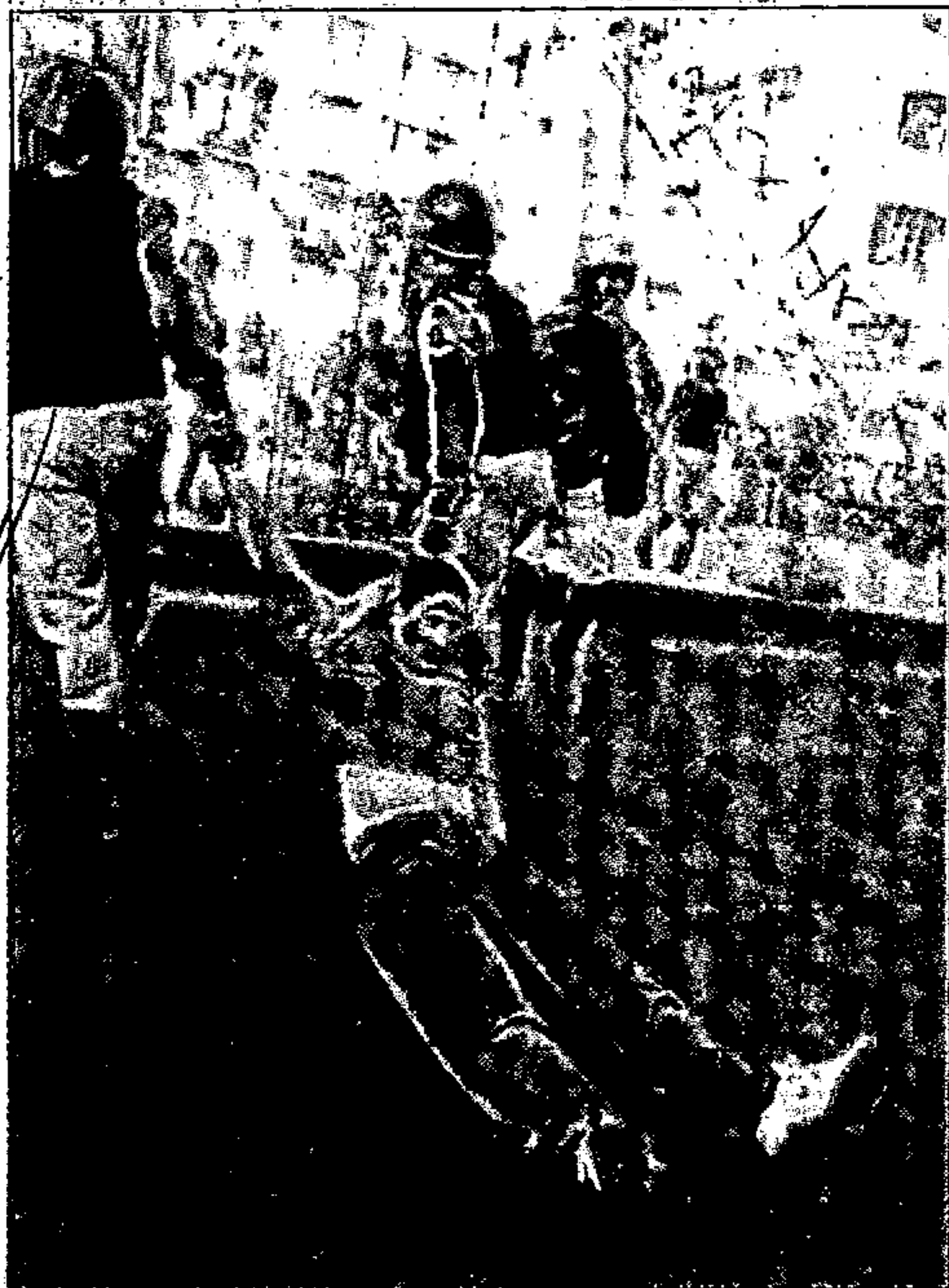
Police resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

The main trouble spots were Naya Paltan, Motijheel, Kakrail, Bijoy Nagar, Sheorapara, Saderghat and nearby areas.

UNB adds: "We are determined to make our hartal a success."

The Prime Minister has no right to come to the university campus as she continued repression on students. Student community will give a befitting reply," acting

See Page 12 Col 5



Police drag JCD general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu to the van in front of the BNP office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Crackdown

From page 1

JCD president Manjur Elahi told UNB over phone shortly after the arrest of JCD president Habibunnabi Sohel.

JCD activists, led by Sohel and general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, picked up an altercation with police officers near the BNP central office. Soon, a bomb exploded touching off a clash that spread over Bijoy Nagar, Kakrail and surrounding areas.

Police in riot gear then charged baton and fired tear-gas shells on JCD men who pelted stones and exploded crude bombs.

At one stage, JCD activists went on the rampage damaging and torching vehicles.

Meanwhile, chase and counter-chase between police and activists of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, student front of Jatiya Party, took place in Kalabagan area as the law-enforcers picked up some 15 supporters.

Arrest of top JCD leaders sparked wild protest in different parts of the capital, including Motijheel, Pallabi, Lalbagh, Dhanmondi, Demra and Ramna.

The protestors exploded a series of bombs and set fire to vehicles, including a state-run BRTC double-decker bus.



Police club JCD men in a procession near Naya Paltan yesterday.

— Star photo