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Classes resume today

Police raid 13 DU halls, recover arms, ammunition

Staff Reporter

Police raided 13 residential halls of the Dhaka University yesterday to clear the campus of arms a day before classes resume after week-long closure following post-DUCSU election violence on February 9, which claimed the life of an outsider.

Police said the three-hour-long raid which was also extended to the neighbouring slums yielded an assortment of weapons including four pipeguns from Sgt Zahurul Huq Hall.

Nine people including outsiders were taken into custody for questioning.

The raids followed after a high-level meeting chaired by Education Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam and attended among others by Vice-chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan, Pro-Vice-chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Igndicate members Education Secretary Hedayet Ahmed, Home Secretary Mohammad Ali, In-

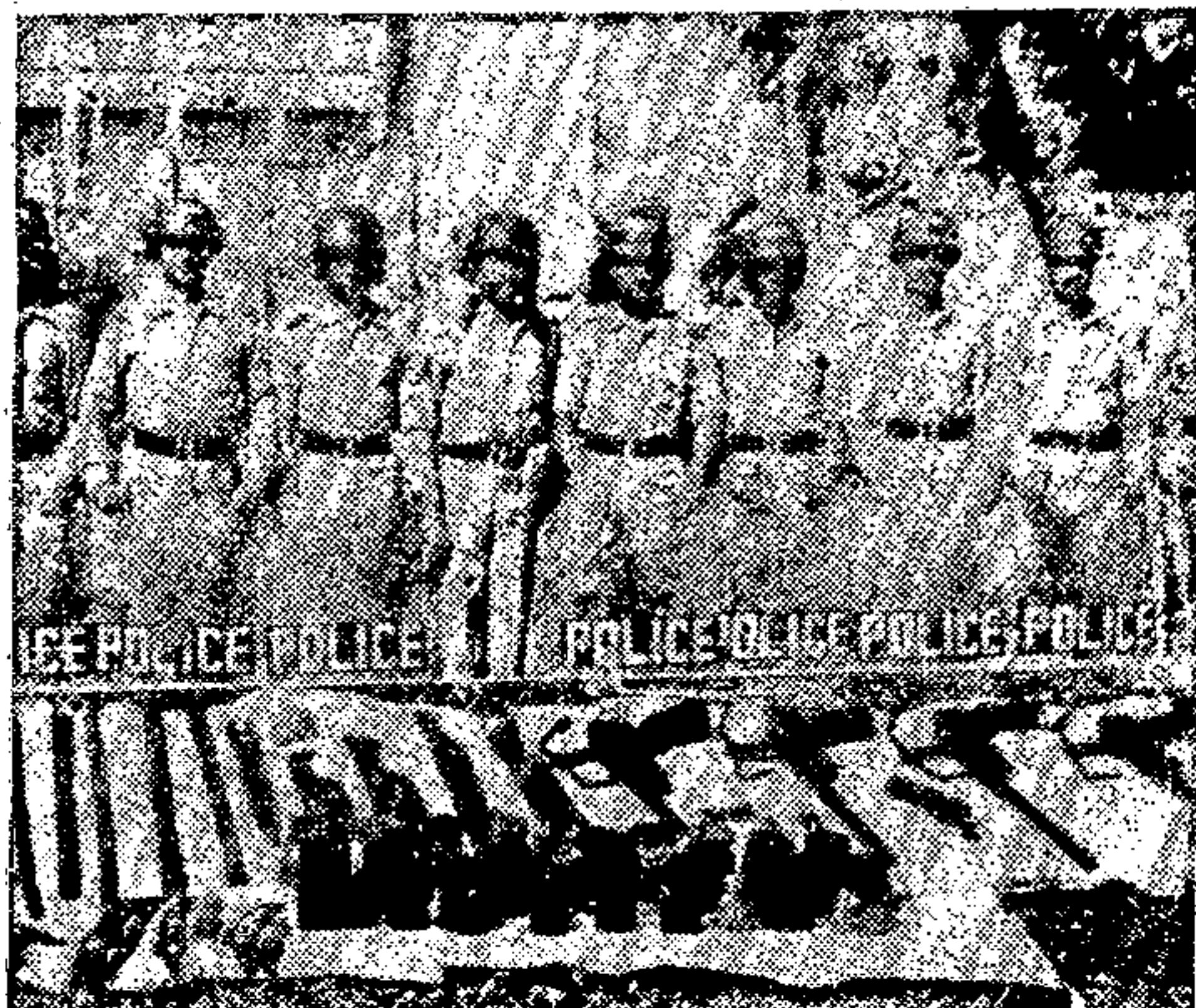
spector General of Police A R Khandaker and city police commissioner Nasrullah Khan.

Earlier, the newly elected leaders of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) also called for police search in the campus before the university reopened.

A press release issued by the Metropolitan Police last night said the raids came after a tipoff that arms were being brought into the halls for use in rioting when classes could resume today.

According to the police, the following weapons, ammunition and other assorted items including a butt of a gun, an old telephone set, a plastic toy pistol and a crowbar were seized: Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman hall—two chocolate bombs from Room No 304, three hockey sticks and three iron rods from the cornice, two iron rods from

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Arms and ammunition recovered by police from Dhaka University halls yesterday. New Nation photo

DU autonomy violated

Staff Reporter

The 15-student organisations in a joint statement yesterday accused the Dhaka University Teachers Association, DU administration and leaders of Chhatra Sangram Parishad of violating the long-established autonomy of Dhaka University by their acts of seeking police deployment on the Campus and said it was tantamount to establishing police raj in the biggest educational institution in the country.

The statement said the 'trio' had involved the present 'autocratic government' in the day-to-day administration of the university and it was a slur on the students who had shed blood for restoration of democracy in the country.

The 15-student organisation demanded a judicial enquiry into the affairs of Dhaka University and said the present enquiry committee set up by the University had already lost its neutral image as one of its members Dr Mashuazzaman who is also Chairman of the DUTA, resigned from it after his 'biased attitude' to a particular student organisation was exposed. The statement said, it seemed Dr Mashuazzaman resigned when he realised it was not possible on his part to protect his protegee in the Chhatra Sangram Parishad after the pictures of armed parade of his disciples were published in the newspapers.

Dr Mashuazzaman turned himself into a debatable person when he sought apology from Khaleda Zia for reasons best known to him.

The statement lashed at the Proctor Dr Abdul Mannan Choudhury for his open patronization of the Chhatra Sangram Parishad before and after the DUCSU election. It said, Dr Mannan played the role of a silent spectator when Mohsin Hall was attacked by armed hoodlums. Instead, he took repressive measures against the students belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at different halls.

The 15-organisations said the Dhaka University Teachers Association was the conscience keeper of our people but a few persons had made it a tool of a certain political organi-

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DU autonomy

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sation. The 15-students organisations demanded resignation of the Vice Chancellor and said he could no longer claim himself as neutral person following exposition of his involvement in favour of a student organisation during the polls.

The 15-student organisations urged all students of the university to make a success its programme at the Central Shaheed Minar on February 20 and requested the Chhatra Sangram Parishad to shift the timing of its programme which clashed with the former.

The organisations are Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League (J-L) Ganotantrik Chhatra League Biplobi Chhatra Union Chhatra League (Jo Ka) Biplobi Chhatra Union (Mohsin) Ganotantrik Chhatra Front Samajtantrik Chhatra Union, Jatiya Chhatra Maitry, Samajtantrik Chhatra Kendra, Chhatra Forum, Samajbadi Chhatra Jote, Jatiya Chhatra Sangsad, Pragatishii Chhatra League and Jatiya Chhataa samity.

DU halls

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the cornice of the fourth floor, Shahidullah Hall—a live cock-tail, one 25-inch dagger, a country-made gun butt, one and half kg of stone chips meant for use in bombs, one knife, two bullets of 303 rifle concealed inside a cigarette packet, three rounds of submachine gun, two bullets of point two-two-bore rifle, three bullets of point 38 special revolver, one China Made axe, two pipes, one machete and a hockey stick, Fazlul Huq Hall two knives from Room No 136, three hockey sticks from Room No 118 and an

old telephone set from Room No 301, Jagannath Hall—one fish-designed knife, Sgt Zahurul Huq Hall—four country-made pipeguns and Katabon slum area—one plastic toy pistol, one crowbar and two choppers.

Police further said they were conducting investigations about the seized arms and weapons.

Police had earlier recovered 30 crackers and 38 empty containers from two halls of the university.