

Huge quantity of arms, ammunition recovered Pre-dawn police raid in DU halls : 34 arrested

By A Staff Reporter

A huge quantity of illegal firearms, ammunition and other equipment including electronic appliances and some cash money were recovered in a three-hour long pre-dawn raid in six residential halls of Dhaka University in the city on Wednesday by members of police and Bangladesh Rifles.

Police arrested a total 34 persons including three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders—Golam Faruk Avi, Masudur Rahman Masud and Nirmal Kumar during the raid.

According to DMP sources, the recovered items included sub-machine guns (SMG), nine millimetre fast machine carbines (FMC), cut rifles, guns, pipe guns, revolvers, pistols, Chinese axes, grenades, hand bombs cocktail bombs, bullets cartridges, walkie-talkies, ram-dao, chapati, daggers, chains, iron rods and Taka 64,900. These items were recovered from four, out of six halls

raided. They are—Muhsin Hall, Jasimuddin Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall. However, nothing was recovered from two other Halls—Zahurul Huq Hall and Surja Sen Hall DMP Commissioner Nasrullah Khan personally supervised the operation.

According to official sources, the special squad comprising contingents from the DMP, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Special Branch of Police started the operation simultaneously in all six residential halls at about 4 am. Search for illegal fire arms, ammunition,

other equipment and some accused persons in some selected rooms and premises of the halls continued for about 3 hours ending at about 7 am. About one hundred persons, mostly students and some outsiders, were taken into custody on suspicion during the raid. However, only 34 of them were held and others were released after interrogation, sources said.

The arrested 34 persons include three JCD leaders. They include the international affairs secretary of the JCD, Golam Faruk Avi who was arrested from Mohsin Hall. Police recovered one loaded revolver and Taka 64,900 from his possession. Golam Faruk Avi is accused of several crimes in police cases including the Pagla Shahid murder case. Dhaka University authority expelled Golam Faruk Avi, who was an honours student of the Department of Sociology, in November, 1987, on charge of disciplinary activities. The expulsion followed series of armed clashes on the University campus in the middle of July, 1987, which resulted in the killings of three persons including two Dhaka University students. The two other arrested JCD leaders are—General Secretary of Shahidullah Hall unit Masudur Rahman Masud and General Secretary of Jagannath Hall unit Nirmal Kumar sources said.

According to police, the hall-wise breakdown of the items recovered is as follows: Mohsin Hall—SMG-1, nine mm FMC-1, cut-rifle-3, nine mm rifle-1, gun-1, cut-gun-1, revolver-1, pistol-1, grenades-2, hand bombs-2, SMG magazines-2, SMG bullets-47 rifle bullet-151, cartridges, walkie-talkie-2 sets, dagger-4 and Taka \$4,900.

Jasimuddin Hall—nine mm FMC-10, cut-rifle-2, pipe gun-2, countrymade rifle-1, rifle bullets-61, three not three rifle magazine-1 SMG maga-

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zine-2, cartridge-9, SLR bullet-43, bullet charger-13, dagger-3, razor-1, rifle chain-1, belt for bullet-1, and chemical-1 packet.

Ziaur Rahman Hall—daggers 4 and Chinese axe-1.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall—rifle bullet-1.

According to police the two sets of short-range walkie-talkie, which were recovered from Mohsin Hall, were believed to be used for conversation between the inmates of two halls. The two-way fixed channel walkie-talkie sets look like toy walkie-talkie sets police said. Police suspect the walkie-talkie may have been used to direct the violent activities which erupted in recent days.

When asked, a senior police official told the Times it is surprising that students were in possession of such automatic firearms like sub-machine gun, nine mm fast machine carbine and nine mm rifle and walkie-talkie sets nowadays.

BSS adds, Home Minister Maj General (retd) Mahmudul Hasan visited the Police Control Room where he saw the seized arms and ammunition.

He was accompanied by Home Secretary Mohammad Ali, Inspector General of Police A.R. Khandoker and high police and BDR officials.

The Home Minister thanked the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and all other officers and forces who participated in the raid.