

60 hurt in series of clashes

Police raid DU halls, 35 arrested

161

By Our Varsity Correspondent



At least 50 students and 10 policemen were injured, in a series of clashes between the police and the students for over three hours on Dhaka University campus and its adjoining areas on Wednesday.

The police took into custody 35 students from Shahidullah and Mohsin Halls. Two trucks at Chandkharpool Lane and one Jeep at Kataban areas were put on fire by unruly elements at 11-30 a.m.

The clash originated when police obstructed some students processions brought out on the campus protesting the killing of Bablu and Mainuddin at Mohsin Hall following explosion on Monday. Police resorted to heavy lathicharge and fired tear gas shells to disperse the students processions. The students counter-attacked and pitched battles ensued. Police claimed that the students hurled cocktails and resorted to brickbatting.

The Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and provost of Haji Mohsin Hall said that the police did not take prior permission before entering the hall and the campus. They said that since the Dhaka University is an autonomous body, prior permission of the university authority is needed by the police for entering the campus. On the contrary, a Deputy Commissioner of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police said that they obtained permission from the highest authority for entering the campus.

At 12 noon the police entered the Shahidullah Hall and ransacked 100 rooms and beat up students indiscriminately. Students were dragged out of their rooms and herded into the hall compound. Police entered the hall when a news spread that two police officials were harassed and detained for sometime by the students in the Hall. However, the police left the Hall at 12-30 p.m. after arresting 34 students. All the 34 students were given one month's detention.

A big contingent of police entered Arts Faculty area, and Madhu's Canteen at 12-30 p.m. The students counter-attacked the police and a clash took place. Chase and coun-

ter-chase continued for over two hours and police resorted to heavy lathicharge and fire tear gas shells. Vice-Chancellor Professor Abdul Mannan along with other teachers and officials came to the spot and requested the policemen on duty not to resort to lathicharge. But police swung into action and several students were injured including two female students. Ten policemen were injured by brickbatting. The clash ended at 1-30 p.m. only to take place again near Surja Sen Hall. The police entered the Hall by breaking the wall of the Hall as the Hall gate was locked. There police ransacked the 62 rooms. Resident students alleged that police took away belongings of the students from these rooms of the Hall.

See Page 12, Col 2

Police raid

(From Page 1 Col. 7)

Later at 5-30 p.m. the policemen went to Kataban slum area and asked the residents of the slum to leave the area. Police described the slum as a den of criminals. Following the request from the Vice-Chancellor police gave the slum dwellers seven day's time to vacate the slum.

A heavy contingent of police has been posted in and around the Dhaka University campus.

Talking to newsmen, members of the University Syndicate said that the Ministry of Home did not consider their request for withdrawal of police force from the campus. A large number of students from different halls of the University were found waiting at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor.

The student leaders said that they would not leave the residence of the Vice-Chancellor till the police force is withdrawn from the campus.

Scheduled examinations and classes of the University were not held on Wednesday. Students boycotted the examination and classes on Wednesday in protest against the killing of JCD General Secretary Mahbubul Huq Bablu. The University authority in a notice announced that the scheduled examination for Thursday (today) will not be held.

Central Students Action Committee (Akhtar) condemned the police attack on the students procession. The Committee also condemned police assault on students, teachers and journalists. The Central Students Action Committee alleged that the police entered the campus violating the autonomy of the University. It demanded immediate release of the arrested students and due compensation to the students affected by police raids in the Halls.

Leaders of different political and students organisations including the Five-party Alliance, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD), Workers Party, (Nazrul) Bangladesh Biplobi Chhatra Union, Chhatra League (Shahabuddin) and Progotishil Jatiyatabadi Dal in separate statements on Wednesday condemned the police attack on the students, and demanded immediate release of the arrested students. They alleged that the police entered the campus illegally.

Police Version

Dhaka Metropolitan Police confirmed the arrest of 34 students from Shahidullah Hall. Police said that a slogan-chanting procession of the students when reached Chandkharpool brickbatted the police on duty there. Police alleged that the processionists also hurled hand bombs at them. There the students set ablaze two B.R.T.C. trucks. Later police dispersed the students. When chased by the police the students entered the Shahidullah Hall. According to the police, the students reinforced their number from Shahidullah Hall and proceeded towards the Sikkha Bhavan. From there the students again attacked the police with brick bats and handbombs. When the students defied the warning of the police, the policemen were compelled to enter Shahidullah Hall and arrested 34 students from there.

Later the students in separate small processions obstructed the movement of vehicles around the campus and hurled handbombs to policemen on duty at Kataban injuring two constables grievously. The injured constables are Qayum Khan and Alef Miah. They were admitted to Police Hospital. There the students set on fire a jeep belonging to Roads and Highways Department. When chased by the police, the students entered Mohsin Hall. Police entered the hall and brought the situation under control, the DMP said.