

## Day of fury, pitched

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conference at the Madhur Canteen last evening announced a five-point demand. Those include withdrawal of army and police camps from educational institutions across the country within the next 24 hours, punishment to the culprits in the Monday evening's and the following incidents, a public apology from army chief Gen Moeen U Ahmed, treatment and compensation for the wounded in the two days' violence, and guarantee of a democratic environment throughout the country.

Expressing solidarity with the students, the Dhaka University Teachers Association too has demanded withdrawal of the army camp within 12:00 noon today.

## VC'S PRESS BRIEFING

DU acting Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof AFM Yusuf Haider met Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at around 3:00pm. Later in the evening, he called a press briefing at his DU office where he said the government has expressed regret for the untoward incidents and pledged to take action against the army men responsible for the assault on students and teachers.

The government also assured the VC of bearing the medical expenses and compensation for the wounded students.

A judicial probe body has been formed to investigate the Monday mayhem, he added. "As soon as we get a list of the arrested students, we will act to have them freed," said Prof Haider, also Pro-VC of the university.

He assured that students who took part in the demonstrations would not be subject to any harassment in future. He then appealed for calm as he thinks the demands have already been met.

## FIGHTS ON CAMPUS

Students began pouring out of the halls including the female dormitories since early in the morning. By 10:00am, the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) was packed full of students armed with sticks and stones. As they attempted to march towards the army camp in the university playground, police intercepted them on the road near Shamsunnahar Hall.

Police fired around 50 teargas canisters to disperse the procession while the protesters answered with stones and bricks.

After about half an hour of clash, the students moved towards the VC's residence and held a rally there. The Pro-VC, proctor and some teachers at that time approached the agitating students and asked them to calm down.

At one stage of the demonstrations, a group of students brought a run-down pickup and attempted to pull down the huge iron gate at the entrance of the VC's residence. Policemen posted there fired teargas shells leading to another bout of clash.

At least 20 students were injured during the fight that spread to the Mal Chhattar lying between the Arts Building and registrar's office.

During the daylong clashes, the university library, Modern Language Institute and the registrar building were shut down. The demonstrators tore down a concrete wall of the Institute of Business Administration and smashed windowpanes of the building on hearing that classes were going on there.

Police began beating a retreat at around 1:30pm when the entire campus went under students' control. At that time, the slogan 'Esho Bhai, Esho Bon, Gore Tuli Andolon' (Come gather 'round brothers and sisters, unite in a movement) reverberated along the length. Besides, the marchers clamoured for immediate resignation of the chief adviser and the army boss.

They burnt effigies of Moeen U Ahmed and put up barricades on almost every road. After the police left, they set ablaze a pickup van at TSC and tore down billboards and banners.

Throughout the day, they burnt tires and other objects to shield themselves from teargas. All the entrances to the campus remained sealed off as ambulances were busy rushing the injured to the hospitals.

Students of the Fine Arts scrawled graffiti over the road in front of the institute. One of those read 'We want a campus free of army and police.'

Police and students fought pitched battles at the Nilkhet intersection for around an hour starting from 11:00am. Police used teargas while students retaliated with brickbats. During the melee, police gave two students severe beatings.

## CLASHES AT SHAHBAGH

Around 50 students carrying rods, sticks and brickbats rushed to Shahbagh area where around 100 vehicles were stuck on both sides of the road due to heavy traffic caused by the clash on the campus.

The students started vandalising the vehicles at about 12:15pm. They damaged at least 50 vehicles including an army car, which was also trapped there.

The students also beat up the

army car's driver, also an army soldier named Kamrul, leaving him injured seriously.

Later, the car caught fire automatically.

A police truck fitted with a water cannon came to the spot and doused the fire. A crane took the skeleton of the car later.

Pedestrians admitted the driver to the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital for primary treatment.

A group of students pelted brickbats at police from the rooftop of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman Hall. Police replied with tear gas shells.

Police later stopped movement vehicular movements on the road toward Elephant road.

On their way back to the campus, the students also damaged around 10 vehicles.

The mayhem continued in the area until yesterday evening.

At around 4:00pm, a group of students set fire to a BRTC bus near Railway Hospital and smashed window glasses of four other vehicles, including one pickup van, which was carrying policemen.

## MAYHEM ON MIRPUR ROAD

Students of different colleges including Dhaka College, Eden College, Teachers' Training College, Dhaka Imperial College and Dhaka City College as well as workers of different road side shops and tokais took position on the Mirpur road from Azimpur intersection to Dhanmondi-5 since 9:30am.

They also barred movement of vehicles. The agitating students set fire to the road, vandalised around 20 vehicles till 11:00am and held series of rallies.

At the rallies, they demanded immediate resignation of both the chiefs of the caretaker government and the army.

No police presence was seen until 3:00pm.

As police took position at science laboratory intersection, science laboratory police box and Nilkhet intersection, the students engaged into sporadic clashes with them.

The agitating mob set fire to the police box at science laboratory in the evening. Police and mob locked into battle leaving more than 20 injured.

Until filing of this report sporadic clashes were continuing.

"If they take the wrong path this will arouse a reaction from Iran. The path taken so far will end and Iran will take its next steps," Larjani warned.

The IAEA has been conducting an investigation into the Iranian nuclear programme for more than four years, but is still unable to make any firm conclusion over its nature.

The United States accuses Iran -- Opec's number two oil producer and owner of the second largest proven gas reserves in the world -- of seeking to make nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian energy drive.

Iran, however, insists that the nuclear programme is entirely peaceful and its growing population needs electricity from atomic energy, especially when the fossil fuels start to run dry.

The biggest success in the previous two rounds of talks was an agreement for IAEA inspectors to visit the Arak heavy water reactor on July 30 after being held up for several weeks.

The deputy head of Iran's atomic energy organisation Mohammad Saeedi said he expected that IAEA chief Mohammad ElBaradei would take account of Iran "cooperation" in his next report on Iran in two weeks.

However, the central demand of world powers remains that Iran suspend its uranium enrichment activities, which they fear could be diverted to make nuclear weapons.

Enrichment has always been the key sticking point in attempts to break the deadlock between Iran and the West over the crisis.

The process is used to make the nuclear fuel for power stations, but in highly enriched form the uranium can be used to make the explosive warhead of a nuclear bomb.

Iran has repeatedly refused to suspend enrichment, arguing that it has every right to the full nuclear fuel cycle under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The UN Security Council has punished Tehran's defiance with two sets of sanctions.

Three of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- the United States, France and Britain -- are in favour of debating further sanctions, while Russia and China are more hesitant.

The workers were earlier kept in three different houses, but they are now residing at Room-16, Jalan Kempas-4, Taman Megah Ria 81750, Masai at Johor Baru.

Each of the workers paid around Tk 2 to 2.5 lakh for migrating to Malaysia.

Owner of K-Poly Recycling Industries said he did not hire the workers.

Mohammed Enamul Hoque, proprietor of Enam International, said Akbar Enterprise and his company sent 100 workers on July 4 and only 27 of them were unemployed for a few days, as K-Poly Recycling Industries denied employing them on their arrival.

"We however later managed jobs for them and now there is no problem. Akbar Hussain of Akbar Enterprise went to Malaysia recently in this regard," he said.

## Iran, IAEA seek accord in nuclear talks

AFP, Tehran

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reports: Crops on 6,090 hectares of land worth around Tk 17 crore were damaged in the floods, according to district agriculture extension department.

"We supplied Amon seedlings to 100 peasants of three upazilas free of cost, so that each farmer is able to transplant seedling on one bigha of land," said Abdul Matin, deputy director of agriculture extension department, Gaibandha.

Besides, seedlings on 13 acres of land are being grown for distribution among the flood-ravaged farmers, free of cost, to help them overcome the crop damage, he added.

Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) and disease control sources said intensity of both the flood and the spread of diarrhoea are diminishing to some extent all over the country.

"The very active monsoon has become weaker and the Brahmaputra basin is likely to be free from flooding within a few days," FFWC sources said adding that the flood situation in Bangladesh is likely to improve from tomorrow and it would not deteriorate further.

Flood situation in the districts of Manikganj, Munshiganj, Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Sharatpur, Gopalganj, Chandpur and Dohar and Nawabganj upazilas of Dhaka is likely to improve or remain unchanged.

Small rivers surrounding Dhaka and Narayanganj saw a fall in their water levels. The rivers are expected to recede further in the next 24-72 hours. Flood situation around Dhaka city especially in the eastern part of Dhaka is likely to improve in the next 24-72 hours.

Meanwhile, the Padma may continue to rise but at a slower rate in the next 24-72 hours. The Padma at Goalundo and Bhagyalak reeded and is likely to remain steady.

The International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) had fewer patients than those of previous days, even though 3,871 patients were admitted to different hospitals across the country yesterday taking the total number to 68,862 since July 30.

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## Major concern

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Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of Longer Stay Unit of ICDDR,B told The Daily Star, "As the government has started to provide services to the diarrhoea patients at different public medical colleges and hospitals, the ICDDR,B received 767 patients in 24 hours ending at 6:00pm yesterday."

He said it is yet to be determined how much progress has been achieved.

Two diarrhoea patients arrived dead at the ICDDR,B yesterday, he said adding that their lives could have been saved if they were brought in even half-an-hour earlier.

Health Adviser Maj Gen (retd) ASM Matur Rahman handed over some emergency medicines including oral saline and water purifying tablets to the Executive Director of ICDDR,B Alejandro Cravioto yesterday.

Assaulting students cannot solve the problem, he said, adding that the authorities should take immediate and appropriate measures to stop the violence quickly to avert further consequences.

Major Gen (retd) SM Ibrahim linked the clash to a storm in a teacup. It is highly regrettable that the incident had to happen between soldiers and students, he said.

"This demonstrates the inadequacy in education of the soldiers about the environment and the sensitivity of Dhaka University and its students, and lack of appreciation of the students about the sensitivity of soldiers who have been working so hard for the last eight months within their visibility and knowledge," he said.

The situation arising out of the confrontation between soldiers and students was taken over by the police, which was the right step, but subsequent actions of the police were possibly little beyond expected limit, he said.

"I appeal to all corners for demonstrating cool, calm and patience. I will urge upon all corners to restrain violence," Ibrahim said, adding that burning vehicles and destroying properties cannot be expected from a respectable society for obtaining justice.

The visit to the university and the hospital by the Chief of the General Staff of the Army Major Gen Sina Iblis Jamali was a welcome step, he added.

"Disciplining and affection must go hand in hand. Situation must not be allowed to aggravate, because the government and the joint forces have enough on their plates; they do not need more worry," he said.

The president underscored the need for enhancing trade and commerce for mutual benefit of the two countries and urged the Dutch investors to invest in Bangladesh as an 24-hour ultimatum to withdraw the decision.

They also threatened to enforce an indefinite strike at the university if their demand was not met within the deadline.

The injured students were admitted to a clinic.

## President assures

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The CEC also apprised the president of EC's efforts to complete the task of preparing the voter list by October 2008 and hold the election in December of the same year.

The CEC was accompanied by two election commissioners -- Muhammed Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hossain.

Getting assurance from the government of lifting the ban on indoor politics by August, the EC in its roadmap announced holding dialogue with the political parties from September. But the EC now seems to be worried over pursuing the roadmap as the government is yet to show any sign of lifting the ban on indoor politics by August 30.

The CEC on Monday told the journalists that the EC would again ask the government to lift the ban on indoor politics by August 30 after being held up for several weeks.

"I talked about it yesterday. I think the government knows the requirement of the election commission," he told the journalists.

CEC Huda also sought the president's cooperation in discharging EC's responsibilities.

Some steps have already been taken to make the election transparent and accountable, he added.

The president expressed satisfaction at the EC's activities.

ELECTION WITHIN EC TIMEFRAME

UNI adds: President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the next parliamentary elections will be held within the

timeframe set by the Election Commission (EC).

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