

Chaos reported from outside Dhaka

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about 20 police personnel were injured with five of them being in critical condition. He said about 300 tear gas shells and 150 rubber bullets were fired during the clashes.

Replying to questions, he said, "The police action on the campus was taken following directives from the university administration."

The students started pouring onto the campus from their dormitories and from outside early in the morning. At 8:30am hundreds of students embarked on a peaceful march protesting the DU incidents and in support of yesterday's student strike there.

Police intercepted the march and dispersed it on the pretext of the state of emergency when it reached the administrative building parading through campus streets.

Soon after being dispersed the demonstrators regrouped again with sticks and stones in their hands and started clashing with police.

Around 9:00am, the situation worsened when police fired two tear gas shells at the students. Several hundred students started moving forward in formations pelting police with stones, and at one stage they forced the law enforcers to retreat through the main gate.

Police and students clashed for more than an hour at the main gate, where police fired a number of tear gas canisters again, while the students kept pelting them with stones. That led to about 100 students being hurt.

Five of the injured students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, and RU Medical Centre.

After an hour of fighting the police, students captured the main gate and took position on the highway. They took control of the highway at Binodpur setting fire to tires at several points.

Police took position at Kajla gate and continued fighting the students.

While a group of students kept the highway under their control, another group went to the VC's residence around 10:30am. They tried to break through the main gate of the residence and damaged the police box in front of it.

The demonstrators cut off electricity, telephone, cable TV connection, and water lines to the residence.

As newsmen were taking photos of the demonstrators at the VC's residence, the students started beating them, instigated by some Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres.

They assaulted The Daily Star staff correspondent Anwar Ali damaging his camera and mobile phone. As he disclosed his identity, some Shibir cadres got more enraged and started beating him again with renewed enthusiasm.

The Daily Star's RU correspondent Abu Kalam, and the daily Prothom Alo's Rajshahi correspondent Swaran Sarkar were also assaulted as they tried to save Anwar.

The Prothom Alo's photojournalist Azhar Uddin was hurt as a stone hit him on the mouth near RU Medical Centre. He was also injured in the leg from a shooting tear gas canister during the fight on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

Bangla Vision reporter Zahid Hasan was also injured in front of the VC's residence.

The students entered the VC's residence breaking the main gate at 12:00pm, while some senior teachers including some students' advisers were trying to calm the students.

Soon the students started pelting the teachers with stones, prompting them to take shelter on the first floor of the VC's residence.

Two teachers, Jahangir Babu and Jahangir Alam, were injured during the melee.

The students set furniture on fire on the ground floor, and as Pro-VC Prof Mamnunul Keramat approached the students, they assaulted him.

The students then went on to ransack the lounge in the residence and broke a photocopier machine, and two computers.

They also torched three vehicles out of the five in the VC's garage. Later, they declared the residence captured by them, setting fire to tires and damaging furniture in front of it.

VC Prof Dr Altaf Hossain and several senior teachers were confined on the first floor.

Following the VC's request, about a hundred riot police from four directions rushed to the residence firing rubber bullets and recaptured it from the students within 15 minutes.

The slain rickshaw puller, Anwar, and his student passenger Abir were hit by bullets as they were crossing Folklore Square when police entered the campus blazing their guns to take control of the VC's residence.

Dispersed from the VC's residence, the students regrouped

again near the RU stadium.

They attacked the police camp set up at RU gymnasium, prompting police to counter attack, as the students set fire to the camp.

Police fired a large number of tear gas shells and rubber bullets to recapture the police camp as the students were throwing brickbats at the law enforcers. About 50 persons were injured in the clash.

The students demanded immediate lifting of the state of emergency, and removal of police from the campus.

They also demanded compensation for the slain rickshaw puller and ensuring of proper treatment for the injured students.

Progotishil Teachers' Society (PTS) of RU yesterday issued a statement condemning the violence on RU campus. They demanded removal of the present officials of the RU administration blaming them for the incidents.

They said the students were holding their pre-scheduled programmes peacefully, but certain fundamentalist party members got locked in clashes with police sparking the violence, the statement said without naming anyone.

The situation went out of control as police charged batons on students, and fired tear gas shells while the administration remained mum, the statement went on.

PTS leaders tried to calm the demonstrating students and police, but they failed.

The teachers went to the VC's residence and asked him to stop the police atrocity, but the administration decided not to do anything, alleged the statement.

Taking the opportunity of the volatile situation, Shibir cadres damaged rehearsal rooms of different cultural organisations in the Racsu Bhaban, the PTS statement said, where the teachers also strongly protested the assaults on journalists by the Shibir cadres.

THE CAPITAL
Thousands of people including students in marauding mood burst into violence in much of the capital yesterday attacking and vandalising many government and private installations including a police box.

Police fired hundreds of rounds from shotguns and lobbed tear-gas shells as the demonstrators pelted stones and brickbats at them turning many city areas into virtual battlegrounds. Around 300 people including many policemen were injured.

The worst trouble spots included Gulistan, Fulbaria, Bangabazar, Raishaheb Bazar, Nayabazar, Sadarghat, English Road, Nawabpur, Mouchak, Malibagh, Kakrail crossing, Mohakhali and the areas adjoining Tejgaon College at Farmgate and Government Bangla College in Mirpur.

Demonstrators set fire to more than a dozen vehicles and damaged windowpanes of several hundred running vehicles in the areas. They also barricaded major city streets halting vehicular traffic that caused immense sufferings to commuters, particularly school children. A large number of people got stranded in wayside markets and shops.

A large number of hawkers and street urchins yesterday joined the demonstrations started by students on Monday, and they looted valuables from many wayside shops and mugged people prompting businessmen to shut down their business establishments.

Demonstrators attacked Sergeant Ahad Police Box at Gulistan at noon. In the face of the mob attack, policemen left it with their arms and other important items. The attackers vandalised furniture and took away some valuables including some files.

OLD DHAKA
Several hundred students of Jagannath University took out a procession from the campus. Several hundred other demonstrators from Kabi Nazrul Islam and Suhrawardy College in the area later joined the procession.

The demonstrators, many of whom carried sticks, paraded Johnson Road and English Road without police interception. About half an hour later, they turned violent and ransacked around a dozen buses and microbuses parked near Victoria Park.

The marchers then pelted stones and brickbats at government offices including the deputy commissioner's (DC) office and Dhaka courts. They also damaged several vehicles parked on the DC's office premises and on nearby roads.

A number of people, particularly vendors, hawkers and street urchins, joined the students and went on a rampage.

At this stage, police in riot gear cracked down on the demonstrators firing shotguns, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters. They also resorted to baton charge to disperse the demonstrators, who then spread to Nayabazar, Fulbaria and Gulistan areas.

The demonstrators smashed windowpanes of many buildings housing banks, government offices and business installations on both sides of the roads from Gulistan to Sadarghat.

They entered a DESA office on English Road at around 2:00pm, brought out two pick-up vans, two motorcycles and a huge quantity of electric wire from there and set fire to those on the nearby road. A CNG-run autorickshaw was also set afire on English Road.

They also pelted stones at an office of Bangladesh Bank at Sadarghat, First Security Bank, Mercantile Bank, Eastern Bank Ltd and a Chinese hotel.

The unruly crowd also tore down electric traffic signals and traffic sheds on some roads. They also blasted home-made bombs during clashes with police.

They set fire to a BRTC bus at Fulbaria.

Meanwhile, other demonstrators set fire to a BRTC double-decker bus and a microbus at Kamlapur, two vehicles at Dhanmondi, one bus at Shankar and another near the Home Economics College.

COURT PROCEEDINGS SUSPENDED

All proceedings of Dhaka courts were suspended at 11:30am yesterday due to repeated attacks on those by unruly hawkers and small traders. Windowpanes of several government and private vehicles parked on the court premises were smashed.

Members of Dhaka Bar Association brought out a procession on the court premises protesting Monday's army attack on students. They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the emergency power ordinance.

The incident created panic among judges and magistrates at the courts of district and sessions judge, metropolitan sessions judge, district magistrate and chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) and lawyers and litigants.

At 12:15pm, the unruly people attacked the lower courts with sticks and bricks and damaged windows of a number of magistrates' courts. They also damaged some of windows of the judges' courts and district magistrate's court.

The mob ransacked police club, district parishad bhaban and many shops in the area.

At one stage, police swung into action to bring the situation under control. Several policemen and pedestrians were injured in the violence.

MOUCHAK, MALIBAGH
More than one hundred vehicles were vandalised and several set on fire at different points on the roads in Malibagh, Mouchak, Kakrail, Shantinagar and Purana Paltan areas as demonstrators clashed with police.

Police fired shotguns, used teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse them.

Witnesses said students of different educational institutions including Siddheshwari College, Habibullah Bahar College and Abujar Giffari College brought out processions in the areas at about 10:00am. Several hundred locals joined them, chanted slogans and barricaded some roads in the areas.

The demonstrators, particularly the local people, vandalised passenger buses and other vehicles at several traffic signals in Malibagh, Mouchak and Kakrail areas.

Shops on both sides of the roads downed their shutters following the incidents.

VIOLENCE IN AND AROUND DU, NEW MARKET

At least 100 students were injured in fierce clashes with the law enforcers in front of Sir AF Rahman Hall on the Dhaka University (DU) campus, Nilkhet, Palashi and New Market.

The clashes erupted at about 12:15pm.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association brought out a protest rally at around 11:30am from Aparajejo Bangla to the Central Shaheed Minar on the campus.

As the teachers gathered at the foot of the Aparajejo Bangla, several hundred students joined them chanting slogans.

The students, mostly the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra League and some left wing student organisations, demanded immediate withdrawal of police from the campus.

After the rally, the teachers along with the students held a meeting at the Shaheed Minar and demanded lifting of the state of emergency immediate and bringing back democratic environment.

Later, the agitating students went to Nilkhet intersection where a police camp is located.

Finding police presence in the camp, the students got furious and tried to attack the police camp. Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse them.

At that time, agitators from Palashi and New Market attacked police pelting brickbats.

As the mob and the students

intensified their effort, police started fired to disperse the crowd.

At one stage, the students brought petrol from the adjacent DU transport office and tried to set fire to the police camp.

Students used corrugated iron sheets to save themselves from rubber bullets as police fired blank shots.

The protestors also blocked Nilkhet-Palashi Road with big branches of trees.

Two ambulances were seen carrying wounded students frequently.

MOHAKHALI AND FARMGATE

Mohakhali and Farmgate areas turned into a battlefield as students of Government Titumir College and Tejgaon College clashed with police demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency. Small traders also joined them in the clashes.

The agitating mob pelted stones at windowpanes of Square Centre, owned by Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, at Mohakhali Wireless Gate area at 11:30am. They also vandalised three vehicles inside the centre.

Around 400 students of Titumir College vandalised more than 20 vehicles including three cars of different media houses at Mohakhali flyover area at 10:45am.

Traffic on the road stretching from Mohakhali to Gulshan-1 remained snapped throughout the day.

Police lobbed tear gas canisters and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators injuring 15, including newsmen and police.

Tejgaon College students brought out a procession at 11:30am and vandalised several cars on the road stretching from Farmgate to Khejurbagan. Vehicular movement on the road remained snapped from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Police lobbed tear gas and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators.

COUNTRYWIDE CHAOS

Around 200 people including students, teachers, journalists and police were injured yesterday as thousands of students at various universities and colleges across the country locked in clashes with police on the third day of violence.

In violent protests against police excesses against students of Dhaka University (DU) following Monday's clash, students all over the country ransacked structures, vandalised vehicles, and barricaded highways and roads.

Many agitating students of various educational institutions also boycotted examinations and classes.

Rail and road communications between the northern region and the rest of the country remained snapped as students of Bogra Government Azizul Haq College put up barricades on rail tracks and on Bogra-Rangpur highway, reports UNB.

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY (JU)

Traffic on Dhaka-Aricha highway was interrupted for five hours as JU students blocked the highway protesting the incidents at DU.

Around 30 people including the university proctor Prof Sayed Kamrul Hasan and Superintendent of Police Matiar Rahman were injured during a demonstration staged by the students.

The JU students blockaded the highway after police dispersed a student procession brought out at 9:00am. Long queue of vehicles, stretching upto several kilometres on the highway, remained stranded during that time.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the demonstrators, triggering chase and counter-chase between the students and law enforcers. Around 50 teachers also took position on the highway, expressing their solidarity with the students' demands.

Classes and examinations were suspended as the "Students Against Harassment" enforced a student strike at JU. In the afternoon, the students brought out processions on the campus.

CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY (CU)

Over 40 students, teachers and police were injured in a clash on CU campus.

Witnesses said students brought out a procession on the campus at around 9.15am in support of student strike.

They vandalised a minibus and ransacked a police box on the railway station premises as well as rooms and windowpanes of Commerce Faculty and the Academic building of CU.

The situation was subdued after a half-hour-long chase and counter-chase between police and the students.

Meanwhile, Prof Jasim Uddin, proctor of CU, said the CU authorities have decided to vacate the dormitories by 6:30pm yesterday as per government instruction.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: At least 58 people including police, journalists and students of

BM College, Govt Hatem Ali College and Amrita Lal Dey College were injured in clashes between students and police.

Students also ransacked a number of shops and vehicles during protests on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

At about 10:30pm on Tuesday night, students at BM College damaged 26 rooms of different departments, hostels, auditorium, canteen, college principal's residence and other buildings on the campus.

The clashes spread about two kilometres from Nathullabad to Natunbazar police checkpoint when police resorted to baton charge and fired about 50 rounds of tear gas cell and rubber bullet.

The students put up barricades on roads, set fire on tyres and damaged the motorcycle of the Prothom Alo correspondent, 4 shops and 8 rickshaws.

Following the pandemonium, the college academic council at an emergency meeting suspended classes till August 26.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: At least 30 people including nine police and a journalist were injured in fierce clashes between BL University College students and police at about 10:30am.

At one stage, angry students set fire to tyres at different places at Daulatpur and put up roadblocks on the Khulna-Jessore Highway from 11:00am to 2:00pm, suspending traffic movement.

Students of 14 departments of the college abstained from taking examinations in protest at police action.

Students of Azam Khan Commerce College and Majid Memorial City College also brought out processions and ransacked roadside shops.

Students at Khulna University formed human chain on the campus at about 11:00am and later brought out a silent procession in protest at police excesses on the DU students.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: At least 10 journalists were injured when some students from a silent procession swooped on them at the Sangbadik Samity office of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

UNB reports: Fierce clashes between students and transport workers on Tongi-Ghorashal road near Pubail Degree College left at least 20 students injured.

Witnesses said the incident played out when angry students, who were protesting at Monday's incident on the DU campus, put barricade on the road following a rumour that a female student of the college was killed in road accident, ensuing clashes with transport workers at about 11:00am.

At one stage, they torched a bus and two motorcycles. They also damaged a number of vehicles on the road, disrupting traffic for three hours.

Sylhet staff correspondent reports: Teachers of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) wore black badges in protest at police excesses on the DU students.

The university teachers at a rally demanded immediate withdrawal of police from all university campuses.

No classes or examinations were held at the SUST and Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) in support of countrywide student strike.

Our other district correspondents report: Students of Patuakhali Science & Technology University (PSTU), Baufal Degree College in Patuakhali, Islamic University at Kustia, students of Netrakona University College, Sirajganj University College, Islamia Degree Collage and Solonga Degree College in Sirajganj, Gaibandha Govt University College, DWD Degree College in Gaibandha, Carmichael College in Rangpur and Sathkira Government College and Sathkira City College and Faridpur Rajendra University College also brought out processions.

US mum after

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spokeswoman for international affairs at the US Treasury.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson "looks forward to speaking with any candidate," she added.

The Washington-based IMF acknowledged that a second European candidate has entered the race to head the financial institution.

"The Czech candidate has been nominated," IMF spokesman William Murray told AFP. "As it stands now there are two" candidates, including Strauss-Kahn, to succeed managing director Rodrigo Rato, he said.

Merkel

FROM PAGE 16
During a summer festival Saturday, a group of about 50 Germans, some shouting neo-Nazi slogans, chased eight Indians through the streets of the town of Muegeln and broke down the door of a pizzeria where they had sought refuge.

CA

FROM PAGE 1
incident, the head of the caretaker government said police and students were locked into clashes over an unwanted incident that continued until Tuesday.

Under the circumstances, Dr Fakhruddin said, the government Tuesday expressed deep regret and hastened to take steps in accordance with demand of the students of Dhaka University.

The measures included withdrawal of army camp from the campus, formation of a judicial inquiry commission to probe the incidents and taking action against the persons responsible for the incidents.

He said the army has also taken measures to punish the accused army person at the earliest through "Court of Inquiry".

As a sequel to the measures, the CA noted, the army camp was withdrawn completely from the campus yesterday and, at the same time, the government initiated a process of constituting a judicial inquiry commission led by a retired justice of the High Court.

"But, it's unfortunate that some evil forces and opportunist unruly people created anarchy in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, capitalising on the university incidents," he said, adding that they resorted to destroying public and private property.

Fakhruddin further said the evil force defied government request for maintaining peace and discipline, refraining from unruly activities, destroying property and disturbing public life. "Nevertheless, they attacked indiscriminately vehicles and passengers," he said.

He said the present caretaker government took over seven months ago with the objective of attaining democratic and economic emancipation and establishing good governance. Since then, "we've been working dedicatedly for welfare of the nation."

The chief adviser urged all to work unitedly to take the country towards peace and prosperity.

Pentagon

FROM PAGE 16
delays to not being able to line up enough vendors to meet the production goal, which he described as a "best case scenario." But he later told reporters that was wrong.

US Defense Secretary Robert Gates made the MRAPs the Defense Department's top acquisition priority after learning that not a single marine has been killed in one.

On July 18, the Pentagon announced plans to use a 1.2 billion dollar boost in funding accelerate production of the million dollar vehicles.

Assistant Secretary of Defense John Young said then that the Pentagon hoped to produce 3,900 MRAPs by the end of the year, and deliver 3,500 of them to Iraq.

The MRAP's raised chassis and V-shaped hull is designed to deflect explosions outward, offering greater underbelly protection against roadside mines than Humvees.

The Marines have only about 200 of the vehicles in theater. The army, which had resisted buying more because of their greater weight, has only about 300 similarly designed armored vehicles in Iraq, Pentagon officials said.

EC firm

FROM PAGE 1
exemplary punishment.

Presided over by Khulna's Deputy Commissioner SM Firoz Alam, the meeting was addressed by, among others, Khulna City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman.

Before leaving Khulna in the afternoon, the CEC visited six voter registration centres where work on listing voters began on Friday.

He was apprised that 56,412 people filled in forms in five days in the city corporation's six wards.

US, UK

FROM PAGE 16
continue to urge them publicly and privately to support these principles".

Meanwhile, a British High Commission spokesman in Dhaka said, "We urge restraint from all sides in reaching a peaceful conclusion and a situation in which the curfew can be lifted at the earliest opportunity".

Plight

FROM PAGE 16
foot to his local guardian's house at Hajaribagh. Panicked Swapan did not know where he would end up.

"What do you think? Is there any possibility to get a ticket for Shariatpur (his village home)? Launches ply under curfew, no? " Swapan asked his friends.

The female students of the DU were the worst affected. Near the BDR gate no 3, female students of the Bangladesh-Kuwait Friendship Hall and Fazilatunnessa Mujib Hall were pleading with the rickshaw pullers and van drivers for a lift.

Terming the government decision inhuman and insensitive, Duta General Secretary Professor Anwar Hossain said, "Why should the students leave their halls...where would they go at such a short notice?"

Curfew imposed

FROM PAGE 1
"The caretaker government did not have any other alternatives, but to take these decisions," Law Adviser Mainul Hossain told journalists after a high profile meeting that took the urgent decision.

"The government has imposed curfew in the capital and five other divisional headquarters to control the prevailing law-and-order situation, maintain peace in public life and protect life and property of the people," said a government a press note.

"All universities in the country and colleges in the six divisional cities have been shut down until further order. All dormitories of the educational institutions have also been shut down and the students of the universities and colleges have been asked to vacate their dormitories by 8 tonight [Wednesday]," said an official handout after the meeting.

Mobile phone networks of all operators were switched off after 6:00pm.

From the time of enforcement of curfew, movement of people living in the metropolitan cities -- Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet, will be restricted according to the law that says no person present within cities or areas specified in the curfew order, be out of doors except under the authority of a written permit granted by a specified authority or person.

If any person contravenes, any order made under this section, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term, which may extend to one year or with fine or with both," says the law.

Earlier on the night of declaration of the state of emergency over the political crisis on January 11 suspending all fundamental rights as described in the constitution, the authorities imposed a six hour curfew from 11:00pm to 5:00am in all metropolitan cities and district headquarters.

On the next day, January 12, Fakhruddin Ahmed assumed the office of the chief adviser and the curfew was withdrawn allowing normal public life.

Chief Adviser Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday afternoon chaired a high-level emergency meeting at his office with his cabinet colleagues to review the overall situation, as more and more campuses turned into battlefields on the third day of the violence triggered from DU campus.

Army Chief General Moeen U

India

FROM PAGE 16
The World Health Organisation has forecast India will not only be the world's heart attack capital but also the capital of diabetes and hypertension by 2020.

"The reality is that India will be a very important market for pharmaceutical companies," Kumra said.

Generics will continue to dominate the market while patent-protected drugs will account for about 10 percent, the report said.

The growing prevalence of lifestyle disorders and a rise in cancer cases is seen as spurring growth in more expensive specialty drugs.

The market is also being driven by aggressive drug marketing and a greater prevalence of health insurance, with the number of patients with some sort of coverage expected to double by 2015 to 220 million.

Driven largely through private investment, the number of hospital beds is expected to double to two million, while the number of doctors is expected to rise to 400,000 from 200,000.

"This is the baseline scenario" for pharmaceutical market growth, said Kumra.

Compounded annual growth could be even faster -- 14 percent instead of the projected 12.3 percent -- under which the market would reach a size of 24 billion dollars by 2015, he said.

Benazir demands

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15 and general elections late this year or in early 2008.

Benazir said if she was not able to cut a deal with Musharraf, she still intended to return to Pakistan and campaign for her party and join other moderate political parties "to try and bring about a transition."

"I hope it doesn't come to a breakdown in the negotiations between General Musharraf and the PPP. But, at the end of the day, we can't afford to be contaminated by his unpopularity without getting the price for democracy," she said.

US officials believe that an alliance with Benazir would be Musharraf's best chance of remaining president, reports have said, noting