

## 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.

Replies 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 Mammunul 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 stain 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 bricks 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, Raishabha Bazar, Nayabazar, Sadarghat, English Road, Nawabpur, Mouchak, Malibagh, Kakrail crossing, Mohakali 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 valuable items including some files.

**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, Nilkhel, 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 Aparajeyo Bangla to the Central Shaheed Minar on the campus.

As the teachers gathered at the foot of the Aparajeyo 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 of CU.

Later, the agitating students went to Nilkhel 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 protesters also blocked Nilkhel-Palashi Road with big branches of trees.

Two ambulances were seen carrying wounded students frequently.

**MOHAKHALI AND FARMGATE**

Mohakali 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 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.

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

Traffic on the road stretching from Mohakali 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.

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 nationwide student strike.

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

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 protest against the incidents at DU.

Around 30 people including the university proctor Prof Sayed Kamalul Haasan and Superintendent of Police Matir 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.

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.

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.

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 of CU.

Later, the agitating students went to Nilkhel 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.

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**CHITTAGONG UNIVERSITY (CU)**

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

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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.

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As the mob and the students

incurred, 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 Fakhrudin said, the government Tuesday expressed deep regret and hastened to take steps in accordance with the 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.

The said 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 judge 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.

Fakhrudin 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**

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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.