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Tension in DU over arrest of Masud

Varsity Correspondent

Tension mounted on Dhaka University on Tuesday following the arrest of a student leader of Fazlul Haq Hall in connection with the killing of Mithu.

A full-day strike was observed in Curzon Hall and agitated students ransacked a dozen vehicles in protest against the arrest of Maftun Ahmed Masud, General Secretary of Fazlul Haq Hall unit of Pro-JSD (Inu) Chhatra League (B-K).

Mithu, a second year student of Tejgaon College, was beaten to death on suspicion of theft when he went to Dhaka University Fazlul Haq Hall along with his two associates on Monday.

Police raided the Fazlul Haq Hall on Monday midnight and picked up Maftun Ahmed Masud on charge of his alleged involvement in the killing of Mithu. Masud was produced before the court on Tuesday.

According to witnesses, students of Fazlul Haq Hall brought out a procession in the Curzon Hall areas on Tuesday morning protesting the arrest of Masud. The agitated students drove away the police guarding the hall gate and halted the movement of transports near the Curzon Hall area. The demonstrating students ransacked several vehicles and pelted stones at police that led to a clash between students and law enforcing agencies personnel. Police lobbed a number of tear-gas shells to disperse the unruly students.

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Classes and other academic activities could not be held in the Curzon Hall area in response to the strike call given under the name of general students.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University authorities in a statement on Tuesday described the news item published in different national dailies on Mithu's killing incident at Fazlul Haq Hall as misleading and incorrect.

In the statement issued by the University Public Relations Department said that one outsider was caught red-handed while stealing at the Room No. 240 of the hall and according to his statement hall students caught his two other associates from the hall gate. Students suspected them to be thieves and beat them because there were widespread resentment among the students following continuous theft in the hall. On hearing the news, Provost of the hall along with house tutors rushed to the spot and rescued three persons.

The hall authorities handed over them to Ramna Police at 5 p.m. on the day and lodged a GD with the Ramna Thana in this connection.

JSD (Inu) backed Chhatra League (B-K) Dhaka University Unit President Obaidur Rahman Chunnu and General Secretary Rezaul Haq Reza in a joint statement protested the arrest of Fazlul Haq Hall unit leader Masud and demanded his immediate release.

They demanded proper enquiry into the killing incident of Mithu.