

Shopkeepers, Dhaka college students clash, one killed

Varsity Correspondent

One person was killed and 20 others including three policemen were injured in a clash between the shopowners and Dhaka College students at New Market area on Thursday morning.

The victim was identified as Anwar, an employee of Rafiq Tailors of Dhanmondi Hawkers Market. Of the injured, five were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wounds. The injured policemen—Altaf Hossain, Abul Kalam and Mainuddin—were shifted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital.

Police lobbed 50 rounds of teargas shells during the clash to disperse the unruly mob. Police picked up Ziaur Rahman, a first year student of Dhaka College, from the spot.

The incident was a sequel to teasing a girl at New Market last Monday. Eye-witnesses said, some five to six students of Dhaka College were caught red-handed by the shopkeepers while they were allegedly teasing girls who came to the market for shopping on Monday morning.

The shopkeepers assaulted the students and drove them away from the market area.

Following Monday's incident, the students of Dhaka College organised themselves and tried to take revenge upon the said shopkeepers several times but failed as they were hiding. Sensing the situation, the shopkeep-

ers of New Market sent a negotiation proposal to the Dhaka College authorities and later, negotiations were held between them at New Market on Thursday.

A shopkeeper raised a fresh allegation against some students at the last moment of the meeting

which angered the students and a student slapped an employee of the shopkeepers. The shopkeepers and employees jointly chased the students. Receiving the information, the students organised themselves on the college campus and marched

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Anwar Hossain.



A group of youths chasing their rivals during the clash near Dhaka College area on Thursday morning. —OBSERVER

Shopkeepers

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towards the New Market. The market employees also brought out a procession at the overbridge area closing down their shops. Both groups locked in clash which lasted three hours turning the whole area into a mini battle field. Several rounds of gunshots were heard and Anwar, an employee of Rafiq Tailors, received bullet injury near the overbridge at this time. He succumbed to his injury on his way to DMCH.

Police on duty lobbed about 50 rounds of teargas shells to bring the situation under control. A tense situation is prevailing in the area. Police stopped traffic movement on Mirpur Road from Nilkhet to Science Laboratory till 8 p.m. on Thursday following the incident.

The owners and employees of New Market, Gauchhia and Dhanmondi Hawkers Market will observe a half day strike today (Friday) in protest against killing of Anwar.

The Namaz-e-Janaza of Anwar will be held at New Market mosque today (Friday) after Jamma prayer.

Dhaka College Chhatra Sangsad and All-Party Students' Unity in a joint statement blamed the shopkeepers and employees for the incident and demanded punishment to those responsible for the killing of Anwar.