

Huge arms recovered

Six DU halls raided, 34 students arrested

Staff Correspondent

Police stormed six residential halls of Dhaka University early Wednesday morning and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition. Seventy-four students mostly belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were arrested during the raids.

Later, police released 40 students and 34 including Golam Farook Ovee, the International Affairs Secretary of JCD were taken into custody.

Police conducted this raid following a violent armed clash between two feuding groups of JCD Sunday midnight in which over 300 rounds of gun shots were fired.

The six halls raided by law-enforcing agencies were Haji Mohsin Hall, Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, Surja Sen Hall and Sgt. Zahurul Haq Hall. The raid was led by Police Commissioner A M M Nasrullah Khan. Police said the operation was conducted in response to a call by the University authorities following deterioration of law and order situation on the campus.

The police recovered most of the fire arms and ammunition from Mohsin and Jasimuddin Halls and a large number of lethal weapons from other four halls. The arms recovered by the police include six rifles, two SMGs, one 7 mm rifle, one tommy gun, two pipe guns, one revolver, one pistol, four hand bombs, and two live grenades. Two wireless sets and a huge quantity of explosives were also seized.

The raid started at 4 a.m. and continued till 7 a.m.

Earlier, the police cordoned the whole campus and permitted no one to move. During the raid hall provosts, house tutors and other senior officials of the University were present.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Abdul Mannan and other senior officials of the University later visited the police control room to see for themselves the ammunition recovered from the residential halls.

JCD procession

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal members brought out a procession on the

campus protesting the police raid in University halls. They termed it as a violation of the varsity autonomy.

Meanwhile, the feuding groups of JCD again clashed on the campus on Wednesday. Four JCD members were injured by the rivals. Of them two were reportedly stabbed.

A peaceful situation was however, prevailing on the campus till the writing of this report at 9 a.m.

Home Minister Major General (Rtd.) Mahmudul Hasan visited the police control room to see the arms and ammunition recovered from the University halls. He was accompanied by the other senior police officers.

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Raid on DU halls

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BSS adds: The Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Prof. Abdul Mannan, told BSS that the police early Wednesday morning raided six University halls. He said that most of the illegal arms and ammunition were recovered from two of the six halls.

He said the students and teachers praised the good behaviour of the police during the search for illegal arms.

The Home Minister, Maj. Gen. (Rtd) Mahmudul Hasan, visited the police control room to see for himself the arms and ammunition seized by the police from University halls. The Home Secretary, Mr. Mohammad Ali, the Inspector General of Police Mr. A.R. Khondkar, accompanied the Minister.

The Home Minister expressed satisfaction at the recovery of illegal arms and ammunition from the halls. He also expressed the hope that following the recovery of these arms and ammunition peace and discipline would prevail on the campus creating a congenial academic atmosphere.

He said the Government would continue its drive to recover illegal arms and ammunition to ensure peace and security.

Cabinet body meets

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Committee on law and order met at the Prime Minister's Secretariat on Wednesday with Prime Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed in the chair.

Prime Minister Kazi Zafar, who is also the Chairman of the Committee,

was apprised of the raid carried out by the police on six students' halls of Dhaka University wherein a huge quantity of illegal fire-arms and lethal weapons had been recovered.

Kazi Zafar said, the Government of President Ershad was committed to make the educational institutions free from the illegal arms.

The nation was not ready to allow illegal arms activities to continue in the name of politics, he added.

The meeting was informed that the police have been asked to recover illegal arms from all places including educational institutions and persons irrespective of party affiliations.

Home Minister Mahmudul Hasan, Communications Minister Anwar Hussain, Health and Family Planning Minister Dr. Azizur Rahman, State Minister for Education Nitia Roy Chowdhury, State Minister for Finance Faroque Rashid Chowdhury, State Minister for Jute Moinuddin Mandal, Cabinet Secretary M. Mujibul Huq, Secretaries of the relevant ministries and IGP were present of the occasion.