

30 OCT 1991

DU incident: Two police officials suspended

A Sun Report

The authorities are contemplating drastic action to discipline the police forces on duty during Sunday's gunbattle between rival students on Dhaka University campus leading to deaths of three persons.

Two police officials have already been suspended for negligence of duty. Competent sources said a number of others are going to face the axe after investigations.

One Assistant Commissioner and Officer-in-Charge of a city police station have been placed under suspension on charges of negligence of duty.

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DU incident

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Police reportedly failed to tackle the situation despite a large presence and enough resources including powerful tear gas shells that leaves rioters inactive for sometime, including loss of sensitivity and inability to open their eyes, informed sources said.

A police official even used his public address system, urging the combatants to 'stop fighting as good boys up to the traditions of the Oxford of the East', blaring the advice instead of letting his tear gas shells cloud the visions of gunfighters, or showering them with rubber bullets to disable them, witnesses reported.

Even high police officials have been accused of letting the situation turn into a vicious fight although police intelligence had warned about the 'suspicious movements of nearly two dozen people on motorbikes' in and around the Arts Faculty building of the Dhaka University, carrying lethal weapons.

The warning was reportedly flashed to police bosses at least two hours before the shooting started around the DUCSU office where gunmen led by principal accused in Dr Milon Murder case, Golam Faruq Ovee, opened fire at 12-30 pm the sources claimed.

Police and the Home Minister also came under fire from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, which lost two of its activists in the fighting. They complained of ineptitude as well as deliberate negligence by them to tackle the situation.

Some JCD leaders even accused the police of inaction while Ovee and his group remained inside the Rokeya Hall until 4-30 pm when police announced the imposition of curfew on the campus.

They said police had thrown a cordon by over 3,000 personnel along with BDR at least an hour ago. But the group managed to slip out to their hideouts on the neighbouring Engineering University campus. When police raided a hall of BUET, they were not there, hiding somewhere on the campus.

JCD leaders demanded an explanation from the authorities how they managed to escape, as well as slip out much before the police arrived at their hideout.

Police sources, however, denied the allegations saying their entry to the campus was delayed because of belated decision by the university authorities.

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