

MORNING SUN

Rampage on DU campus

A Sun Report

About 100 students went on a rampage at the Administrative Building of the Dhaka University yesterday, ransacking among others the office and the residence of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah.

The students, allegedly supporters of BCL (A-A), destroyed almost everything on the ground floor of the Administrative Building from files to furniture and window panes—described their action as protest against the police excess during their unauthorised entry to

the Jagannath Hall of the university on Tuesday night.

Police, who maintain a strong posse in front of the Vice-Chancellor's residence, were missing during yesterday's incident that provided a free hand to the marauding BCL activists. They also damaged the car of the Registrar and personal car of Dr. M A Fayed, Dean of the Faculty of Biological Science.

Dr. Fayed, the then Provost of the Mohsin Hall, was fired upon at his office on February 10, 1989, allegedly by the same elements.

This was the second time that

the Vice-Chancellor's office was vandalised since the assault on Jamaat-e-Islami leader Matiur Rahman Nizami on April 27 when he went to attend an all-

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka University Syndicate held yesterday (Wednesday) night constituted a committee to investigate all the incidents which took place on the campus from 9.30 Tuesday night to 10.30 am yesterday including entry of police into Jagannath Hall premises, reports BSS.

party meeting on campus violence at the invitation of the VC. His presence was opposed by pro-Awami League and CPB and other elements.

After the attackers left, the police arrived at the scene yesterday. University officials said they were appalled by the belated police response.

Despite repeated attempts, top police officials including the DMP Commissioner were not available for comment.

Tension gripped the campus once again after its reopening of

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Tuesday, for the second time on the 'Ovi group' issue, since its closure on July 31 after a gunbattle between BCL (A-A) and BNP supported Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

The fighting broke out after a police raid to arrest Ovi group at Jagannath Hall was thwarted following brickbattling by a section of hall inmates at police.

Earlier, tension mounted on the campus when Ovi group activists, expelled from the Chhatra Dal for their collaboration with the Ershad regime, and killing of Dr. Milon, were welcomed to the fold of BCL (A-A).

When police arrested Masudur Rahman Masud, a close associate of Ovi, an accused in Dr. Milon murder case, BCL supporters burned three vehicles at Palashi crossing last week.

Masud was hauled from a room of a residential hall of the Engineering University. But Ovi and others had 'escaped' the police net.

They were using the Engineering University campus after closure of the Dhaka University. When the Dhaka University reopened, they moved to Jagannath Hall on Monday, informed sources said, taking advantage of absence of police on the campus and relaxed identity checks of inmates of residential halls of Dhaka University.

Residents of the Engineering University halls said after the abortive police raid on Tuesday night, the Ovi group members slipped away to the Engineering University campus. They had already been openly moving

around the Engineering University campus for the past weeks, the students alleged.

After the ransacking of the Administrative building and the residence of the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah along with members of the Academic Environment Council of Dhaka University had a meeting with Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence.

Sheikh Hasina blamed the government for the acts of terrorism on the campuses. The meeting ended in a failure, according to informed sources.

After the meeting, the Syndicate of Dhaka University went into an emergency session last night to take stock of the latest situation.

Students, whose presence is yet to be normal in the halls of the university, were in panic again when armed elements forced the students of Salimullah Hall late Tuesday night to stage demonstrations protesting raids at Jagannath Hall and raise 'Joy Bangla' slogan.

This group also organised protests outside the vice-chancellor's residence late Tuesday night.

Panic gripped the students yesterday afternoon when unidentified elements fired three shots in the air near TSC, sending students scurrying for cover.

In the evening, an uneasy silence prevailed on the campus with apprehensive students watching the movements of the gunmen stalking different halls.

The newly formed 'nine-party students front,' consisting of CPB, Five-Party and UCL supporters, yesterday condemned the police action, ransacking of the vice-chancellor's office and forcing of Salimullah Hall students to participate in demonstrations on Tuesday night. But the front leaders were divided on the issue of identifying the attackers of VC's office as BCL (S-A) supporters. ISD (Inu) and CPB-backed students opposed it while UCL and others of Five-Party supporters wanted to identify the BCL activists.

Protest

Jagannath Hall Students Union yesterday protested the police

action at the hall.

At a press conference AGs of the hall union Sujit Kumar Roy Nondi alleged that a group of 40-50 armed activists in collaboration with police attacked general students of the hall and injured them seriously. He demanded a probe into the incident.

Chhatra League (A-A) leaders Kamruzzaman Ansari, Pankaj Nath, Parimal Majumder and Biswajit Das were present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, Chhatra League (A-A) yesterday held a rally at Jagannath Hall protesting Tuesday night's 'police action' at the hall. The rally was addressed by Shahe Alam, Momtajuddin Mehedi, Golam Mustafa Sujon and Kamruzzaman Ansari.

They demanded an investigation into the incident.

DUCSU

BSS adds: DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman, MP, and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon yesterday (Wednesday) strongly condemned the anarchist activities by the Awami League student front Chhatra League, on the Dhaka University campus.

In a joint statement, they alleged that the Chhatra League has been continuing a planned terrorism in the campus as the associate of the autocracy to subvert the infant democracy at a time when the nation is marching toward parliamentary democracy.

They alleged that the league workers tried to close down the university after it was opened only Tuesday after remaining closed for one month and a half. They said the Mujibabadi Chhatra League yesterday ransacked the office of the Vice Chancellor and caused extensive damage to the administrative building.

The DUCSU leaders also said due to the continuing anarchist activities, of this particular group, the academic atmosphere has been vitiated and the lives of the teachers, students and employees of the university have been threatened. The university can no longer remain as hostage in the hands of such a terrorist group which is isolated from the people, they observed.

They also vowed to resist the terrorist group in the campus. The DUCSU leaders also called for creating united resistance to such terrorism and appealed to the law-enforcing agencies to apprehend the killers of Dr. Milon.

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