

# DU students protest assault on fellow

Demand removal of DMP DC Masud; 4 cops withdrawn

9 HOUR(S) AGO UPDATED 9 HOUR(S) AGO CRIME & JUSTICE

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Dhaka University students yesterday staged a protest in front of Shahbagh Police Station, demanding justice for the police assault on a DU student during an anti-narcotic drive at Suhrawardy Udyan.

They demonstrated from 1:00pm to 2:00pm. Later, a delegation of protesters held a meeting with a top police official.



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During the drive on Monday night, Nayem Uddin, a student of DU's anthropology department, also the convener of Biplabi Chhatra Jubo Andolon's Dhaka Metropolitan unit, and two journalists were assaulted by police.

Meanwhile, four police personnel were withdrawn from duties yesterday amid protests by DU students demanding the removal of Masud Alam, deputy commissioner of the Ramna division, in connection with the incident.

At the demonstration, Nayem questioned how drug syndicates could continue their activities at Suhrawardy Udyan even though the Shahbagh Police Station is nearby.

“Because I’m a Dhaka University student, people have gathered here today [Tuesday] after I was attacked. But if it were an ordinary citizen, there would not have been so much media coverage or such a large gathering,” Nayem said.

He added that DU students would continue their tradition of struggle to uphold the democratic rights of citizens in the country.

During the demonstration, the students demanded an end to what they termed “unwarranted policing” on campus and across the city, immediate legal action against those involved in the assault, and the formation of an investigation committee in line with the law to probe the incident.

The students left the police station premises in the afternoon, following a meeting between Additional Deputy Commissioner Asaduzzaman and the protesters’ representatives.

After the meeting, Nayem told reporters that they demanded a formal statement from the police authorities be issued within 24 hours.

“We demanded the removal of Masud Alam. We will observe the authorities’ step regarding this demand.”

A video clip that went viral shows that while Nayem was speaking to DC Masud, who was leading the drive, a policeman grabbed him from behind and began beating him up with a stick until he fell to the ground.

Contacted, Masud said, “He was arguing from the beginning and refused to allow a search.” The police officer added that they attempted to search him because they found him in a “specific location”.

Asked about his detention, Masud said that although no narcotics were found on him, police recovered items used for processing narcotics.

At a press briefing at Madhur Canteen, a group of Anthropology Department students, under the banner of “Anthropology Against Repression,” demanded an official public apology from the Shahbagh Police Station.

Their demands include formation of a probe committee within 24 hours and the suspension of DC Masud from duty during the probe.

They threatened tougher programmes if the authorities fail to take steps within the stipulated time.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Dhaka University unit, held a human chain in front of the Raju Memorial Sculpture and expressed solidarity with the protesting students.

In another development, Dhaka University Central Students’ Union (Ducusu) issued a statement, denouncing the police attack on the DU student and the journalists.

“Attacking unarmed people without any specific reason is clearly a human rights violation,” reads the statement.

Protesting the incident, Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote, a coalition of seven left-leaning student organisations, held a protest rally on the campus.

Regarding the withdrawal, DC Masud told The Daily Star that the four officers involved in the incident were withdrawn, and procedures for taking departmental action against them were underway.

“We are trying to identify two to three more personnel who used excessive force,” he said.

He, however, did not disclose the names or ranks of the withdrawn officers.

The police action came after multiple video clips of the incident went viral on social media, triggering widespread criticism.