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Police baton-charge clashing students : 16 arrested

Staff Reporter

Police used their batons liberally yesterday scattering packs of youths from two neighbouring colleges in the city trying to reopen their feud that had resulted in more than 20 wounded on Saturday.

At least 20 people, some of them students from Dhaka College and City College, were hauled on police vans after police treated them with batons, when they swung into action to disperse the mobs renewing their hostilities on the busy Mirpur Road early yesterday.

Lathi swinging and rock hurling gangs of students had chased and counter-chased each other and torched an auto-rickshaw van packed with curry powder before police arrived.

Baton-charge

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Earlier, on Saturday, the two sides fought with clubs, rocks and home-made bombs as traditional rivalries between the boys of the two neighbouring colleges flared up when a group of students from Dhaka College urged students of City College to join a strike.

The injured on Saturday included a policeman.

As police dragged arrested youths, some included passers-by caught in the sudden spasm of violence on a morning street near the New Market bazar, policemen shouted at newsmen not to focuss their lenses. 'We want to treat them a little for their actions in the past two days, a policeman clubbing the knee and arm joints of the detainees shouted at newsmen.

Dhanmondi police said later they had booked only 16 trouble maker's on charges of rioting and arson.

Meanwhile, a college press release said, all the classes of Dhaka City College would remain suspended from today to September 10.