

Edward College Principal assaulted

12-hr curfew in Pabna as students, bus workers clash

From Our Correspondent

PABNA Feb. 1:—The district administration clamped a 12-hour curfew beginning at 6 p.m. this evening following large-scale violence that erupted throughout the day today in the wake of a clash between students of Edward College and transport workers.

The students of Edward College met at the college premises to protest the misbehaviour of bus conductors. The transport workers allegedly brickbatted the students. The students later marched to Radhanagar bus stand and set two buses on fire and damaged 12 buses and trucks.

Police and the college authority jointly brought the situation under control.

Later the transport workers and the owners regrouped and attacked the Edward College at about 1.30 p.m. injuring the

Principal of the college, three teachers and two students.

Principal, two teachers and two students were admitted to local Sadar Hospital. Two teachers were released after first aid.

The students in a retaliatory measure allegedly attacked the office of local Transport Owners' Association and then proceeded to the residence of General Secretary of the association and set his house ablaze. At that time, the General Secretary of the association who was at his residence, opened fire and injured six students who were later admitted to the local hospital. The students then went to a nearby garage and put six vehicles on fire, besides damaging 10 other cars.

The Deputy Commissioner of Pabna told this correspondent that the situation was under control.

Version of district administration

BSS adds: The clashes were sequel to an incident last Thursday between students of Edward College and bus conductors in a row over fares according to district administration sources.

The sources said that Principal Gazi Abdus Salam and Prof Boyenuddin of Edward College who were mercilessly beaten up by a group of bus workers were in serious condition at the hos-

pital.

Student sources complained that several students of the College were beaten up last Thursday by a group of rowdy bus workers after arguments over fares.

The students in retaliation this morning held up some buses in front of Edward College and damaged at least four of them informed sources said. However the situation was brought under control and the students agreed to disperse and release the buses as the district administration interfered.

But the situation took a serious turn at about 1.30 p.m. when a mob of about 30 bus workers armed with lathi daggers and knife entered the College compound and assaulted left and right students and teachers alike.

Edward College sources said six students and three teachers and the Principal of the College who were present there were mercilessly beaten up by the bus workers.

Groups of angry students in retaliation, this afternoon attacked and set on fire the office of the local Motor Bus Owners Association and three adjoining motor garages informed sources said.

District administration sources said police forces were deployed immediately to disperse the fighting crowds and curfew was clamped to bring the situation under control.