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5 DUCSU leaders hurt as students rally lathicharged

Staff Correspondent

Five Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) leaders were injured as the police resorted to lathicharge on a students rally in front of the Secretariat on Saturday noon. As an aftermath of the incident, two cars were set ablaze by a section of the students.

The trouble started when the procession led by DUCSU leaders Aman, Khokon, Alam and others were intercepted by the policemen at the Secretariat gate point. Our Dhaka University Correspondent reported the peaceful procession came under

heavy lathicharge by the policemen on duty. Five students leaders including Aman, Khokon, Alam were injured. Another Chhatral Dal supporter Imrul was admitted to PG Hospital and his condition was reported to be critical.

After the lathicharge, the rally was dispersed. But consequent upon the incident, two cars were set ablaze by the students, one on the Campus and the other in front of the Dhaka College. Tension immediately gripped the whole Campus after the incident. Two students were arrested

136

DUCSU

From Page 1 Col. 7
by the policemen on charge of
fomenting violence.

Earlier the students, numbering about 500, staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the National Press Club. In their speeches, DUSCU Vice-President Amanullah Aman, General-Secretary, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Assistant General-Secretary, Nazimuddin Alam, and joint convenor Fazlul Haq Milan demanded immediate resignation of the present autocratic government and restoration of fundamental rights of education.

In a statement, Chhatra Dal leaders said they had been mercilessly beaten by the police when they were staging a peaceful procession. The police took into custody Salahuddin and Nazrul, two student leaders. But after two hours, they were released under pressure. Condemning what they called dastardly attack on the students, the DUCSU leaders demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University authorities on Saturday expressed concern over the terrorist activities on the Campus and the burning of cars. The authorities expressed the hope that the elected representatives of DUCSU would uphold the image and prestige of the university and perform the responsibilities of controlling the students engaged in terrorist activities. They said it was their sacred duty.

Condemning the police excess, Shirin Sultana Shirin and Shahana Akhtar Sanu, V-P and GS of Rokeya Hall students union called upon the students to build up a strong movement under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia to unseat the present autocratic government.