

Properties worth taka several lakhs damaged

## Students, police battle around Nilkhet

By A Staff Reporter

About a dozen of people, including three police personnel were injured and properties worth taka several lakhs damaged in a four-hour pitched battle between unruly students and police in Nilkhet, new Market and Hatirpool areas of the city on Thursday.

A section of students of Dhaka College brought out a procession on Thursday morning protesting the killing of their fellow college student Farhad Hossain, allegedly by the owners and employees of Bakushah Hawkers market on Tuesday. At one stage the agitating students set four old book stalls and a private car (Dhaka-Gha 5448) on fire and caused extensive damage to

three filling stations, drug stores and at least 20 photostat machines during the rampage.

The students had also launched similar actions Wednesday afternoon in the New Market area.

A group of club-wielding students of Dhaka College attacked the book stall at Nilkhet in a procession at about 11 am and locked in a clash with the shopkeepers of old book stalls near Balaka building and Nilkhet areas. The unruly students stabbed two employees of the bookshops during the clash. The rowdy students ransacked nearby shops including saloons and drug stores. At this stage, a contingent of police arrived and tried to disperse the agitating students but the students

pelted stones at the police and the rampage spread all over adjoining areas including Nilkhet and Hatirpool. Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shells and resorted to lathi charge to bring the situation under control. Police and students were engaged in pitched battles over a period of long three hours in these areas starting from 11 am to 2 pm on Thursday. Police fired rubber bullets at one stage. During the clash four students and three police personnel got injured. The injured students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital but all of them excepting one left the hospital soon after admission to avoid arrest. The injured

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students are Abul Bashir (20), students of Ideal College; Shubro (22), student of Dhaka College Raj (20), student of Jagannath University College Azad (20) a student of Barisal BM College who was stabbed during the clash was removed to PG Hospital.

Tension still prevailing in the areas till writing this report at 11 p m on Thursday. Police and BDR are deployed in an around the trouble areas. All traffic movements were closed in these areas since the trouble started. Shops and other establishments were closed.

Meanwhile several student organisations in separate statements condemned the killing of Farhad Hossain, a student of Dhaka College on Tuesday afternoon, and demanded of the authority to arrest the killers and their punishment. The student organisations include Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, JCD, Dhaka College unit, Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I), Bangladesh Jatiya Chhatra Sanghati and Bangladesh Chhatra Union.