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DU students clash over 'image' protection: 7 hurt

Varsity Correspondent

Tension mounted on the Dhaka University campus as a section of 'general students' demonstrating against the "sex-scandal" of the teachers came under attack of their rivals 'conscious students' on Sunday.

At least seven students and a journalist received injuries as some rowdy students attacked the 'general students' while they were burning an effigy of the teachers allegedly involved in the 'sex-scandal'.

The 'general students', after bringing out a procession, gathered in front of the DUCSU cafeteria and burned the effigy. At that time a number of students opposing it were holding a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla. They turned violent and hurled brick bats and stones to the 'general students' leaving seven students and DU reporter of the Daily Sangbad Kailash Sarker injured.

Six of the injured reportedly belong to general students. They are: Moin, Ripon, Rahima, Bonni, Shar-

min and Sheikh Aslam. Golap, the only one from the 'conscious students' was injured when a stone hit him on the head.

Some of the general students took shelter at the Central Library as they came under attack from three direction. Later they were shifted by an ambulance of the university to some clinics.

A tense situation prevailed on the campus from the morning when additional police were deployed at different points. Regular police force along with women police escorted the procession of the general students to avoid further clash. The procession could not go near the venue of the rally of 'conscious students'.

Police failed to control the rival students who were more than 100 in number. They surrounded the general students taking position even on the roof of the Language Institute.

Police nabbed one of the attackers but he was snatched away by his

mates.

The 'conscious students', during the attack ransacked the DUCSU cafeteria. They called the general students outsider and asked them to show their ID cards.

The 'conscious students' broke the fences of the garden around the DUCSU building and used those as weapons while chasing their rivals.

Panic-stricken students, during the one and a half hours unrest, took shelter in the Central Library.

The 'general students' from the spot announced their programme for today (Monday) and Tuesday. They will bring out a procession on the campus today (Monday) and hold a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla on Tuesday in protest against the attack.

Meanwhile, the 'conscious students' in a Press release, declared the postponement of their programmes for the next ten days.

The 'general students' held responsible a number of miscreants, under the banner of the 'so called Bhabmurti Raksha (image protection) committee', for the attack. They said that the attack was in support of the 'sex-scandal' of some teachers.

Vice Chancellor A.K. Azad Chowdhury, at a Press briefing said that the authorities would form an

inquiry committee to investigate into Sunday's incident.

The VC also said that the burning of effigy at the present stage was provocative.

Prof. Azad dubbed the demands of the general students as 'irrational'. He assured that the report of the probe body would be submitted in ten days.

However, the VC condemned those who attacked the general students.

The 'conscious students' in a press release, denied any involvement in Sunday's attack. They demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers who were trying to sabotage their movement.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) DU unit leaders on Sunday condemned the attack on the general students but at the same time they also said that the way of their (general students) movement were not supported by BCL.

Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, and Jatiya Chhatra Dal also condemned the attack.

Bangladesh Chhatra Federation brought out a procession and held a rally at the Teachers, Students Centre premises protesting the attack. Leaders at the rally said that the attack proved that the conscious students were actually trying to save the sexual assaulters.

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