



Removal of NU V-C DU students clash with police, 20 hurt

Varsity Correspondent

Blasting on the reshuffle at the top post of National University, students of Jagannath Hall, Dhaka University demonstrated violent protests in the city on Monday.

The agitating students damaged about a dozen vehicles in front of the hall gate and burnt an effigy of the Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government.

At least 20 students were injured when police resorted baton charge on the processionists of the agitating students near the National Press Club after an altercation with the students.

Four of the injured - Tapas, Anil, Palash and Ajoy - were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with serious injuries. The others were released after first aid.

As the news of the removal of Prof Durgadas Bhattachariya, former provost of the hall, from the post of NU Vice Chancellor spread the students of Jagannath Hall came on the streets at zero hour on Monday.

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DU students

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The students later in the morning brought out a procession with an effigy of Chief Adviser Justice Latifur Rahman from the hall and paraded the university campus.

When agitating students marched towards National Press Club to hold a rally, police intercepted the procession at TSC and asked to hand-over the effigy to police.

Refusing the police request the students continued to advance towards press club and later hold a rally there. At once after the rally police snatched the effigy from them.

Having been angered with police attitude, the students locked in an altercation with police. During altercation, a police officer fell suddenly on the sheet which prompted the constables to attack and beat the students indiscriminately, witnesses said.

Even the police constables hurled derogatory communal remarks at the students during lathi-charge, alleged a student.

Meanwhile, the removal of Prof Bhattachariya spread resentments among all professional organisations.

Different organisations in separate statements condemned the "biased" move of the caretaker government.

Vice Chancellors of 11 public universities under the banner of Association of Universities of Bangladesh (AUB) expressed deep concern at the removal of a Vice Chancellor, who was appointed by an elected government for four years.

"Such initiatives are tantamount to the universities' autonomy," the VCs opined and added replacing of Dr Bhattacharia by a known partisan just three weeks ahead of the general elections made the caretaker government controversial".

Leaders of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in a statement condemned the initiative and asked the caretaker government to cancel the decision.