

## Polytechnic students clash with cops in Sherpur, Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 80 people including 12 policemen were injured as polytechnic students clashed with the law enforcers in Sherpur and Bogra yesterday during demonstrations demanding elimination of "professional discrimination" against diploma engineers and "timely promotion" of teachers at the institutes.

In Sherpur, police arrested around 30 students after about 150 students, stopped by police from forming a human chain blocking the Mymensingh-Sherpur highway, vandalised their institute, said Mazharul Karim, officer-in-charge, Sherpur Sadar Police Station.

Police charged batons, and fired 20 tear gas shells, and 110 shotgun bullets, he said.

At least 10 students were injured as polytechnic students in Bogra clashed with police while vandalising public property.

The students also blocked the Kachua-Sachar highway in Chandpur for around an hour.

Meanwhile, polytechnic students have threatened to boycott their final examinations from tomorrow in a bid to press home the demands, said a press release of Bangladesh Karigari Chhatra Parishad.

The Parishad organised a human chain at Dhaka Polytechnic Institute in Tejgaon and later tried to block the road, but were stopped by police. Agitated, they then vandalised the institute.

Under the banner, "We will not become supervisors or give exams", the association demonstrated against the 2008 government move to give entry-level diploma engineers the post of "supervisor". It also demanded introducing a new system of promotion for diploma engineers.