

75 shown arrested during DU halls raid Students, house tutors harassed by police

DU Correspondent

Police picked up some 125 people from different dormitories of Dhaka University in a surprised raid at the midnight on Saturday.

Police, however, could not recover any weapon or ammunition during the raid. Of the arrested 50 were set free after verification of their identities while 75 were shown arrested.

Students of different halls alleged that police and some house tutors harassed the resident students during the raid even after they showed their ID cards.

Though police claim that those arrested from the DU are outsiders, but students alleged that police picked up many students from their dormitories without showing any satisfactory reason in presence of their teachers.

They arrested innocent relatives of some students who came to Dhaka for taking part in admissions tests of different educational institutions, the students added.

Police also admitted that most of those arrested are innocents, but police produced the arrested persons before the court.

Police raided 12 halls of the university as well as the staff quarters in Nilkhet, Palashi, student dormitories at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Dhaka Medical College (DMC) and the adjoining areas.

Mahbubur Rahman, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Ramna thana, told the journalists that they conducted the raid to avert any untoward incident on the 31st night.

Sources said 11 platoons of police splitting into three groups carried out the raid at different halls including Surya Sen, Ziaur Rahman, Jagannath, Bangabandhu, Hazi Muhammad Mohsin, Shahidullah, Salimullah, AF Rahman, Jasimuddin, Amar Ekushe and Zohurul Haq halls.

Police arrested 17 people from Surya Sen Hall, 10 from AF Rah-

man, 23 from Shahidullah, 11 from Zahurul Huq, eight from Bangabandhu, one from Salimullah, one from Jagannath and two from Mohsin Hall.

At Zia Hall, the members of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), obstructed police when they wanted to search the room of JCD's Hall unit President.

Following intervention from senior JCD leaders, police were later able to carry out their responsibility. However, none was arrested from the hall.

Some students alleged that police were not sincere about raiding the rooms where the JCD activists stay.

Professor AK Firoz Ahmed Proctor of DU, said police conducted the raid to avoid untoward incident on the New Year eve.

Students of Jagannath hall told the journalists that police raided only part of their hall and did not even go to two other buildings of the dormitory letting many outsiders to stay there without trouble. Three outsiders were detained from the north building of the hall.

In Haji Mohammad Mohsin Hall, police searched its 3rd and 4th floors and held two outsiders while refrained from raiding its other floors where many outsiders were staying.

Police misbehaved with Ka Saifuddin Ovi, a Master's degree student of Mass Communication and Journalism Department and President of Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA).

Although Ovi showed his ID card, police forced him to go down the hall gate from the 4th floor.

The DUJA President blamed House Tutor Hamidullah Bhuiyan, asked police to arrest him (Ovi) as he was carrying a date-expired ID card.