

2 newsmen held from DU halls

293 arrested in BDR raid in city areas

Staff Correspondent

Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in a series of predawn swoop on Friday detained 293 persons including two newsmen from Dhaka University and different parts of the city and recovered some unauthorized firearms and ammunition from their possession.

The BDR squads first took the detainees to their Headquarters at Peelkhana and handed over them to the respective police stations on Friday. Police, however, did not register case against the detainees till the time of writing this report on Friday night.

Police officials said that they knew about the BDR raids when the detainees were taken to the police stations for legal prosecutions in the morning.

The BDR-men could trace only a handful of wanted culprits and unauthorized firearms and ammunition. The recovered arms included three cut rifles, four country-made pistols, two pipe-guns and 31 rounds of live ammunition.

"I will call it a joint raid as the BDR is our allied force," Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police MA Quayum told the reporters when he was asked to comment on the BDR raids.

More than 30 platoons of BDR personnel began the raids at about 2:00 a.m and ended at about 6:00 a.m on Friday. They went to the city's 22 strategically important

points and the possible dens of the culprits and picked up the suspects.

The BDR officials prior to the swoop disconnected all cell phone network and prevented people from free movement within the encircled regions.

Heavily armed BDR sepoys stormed the targeted spots with troop vans and picked up people without showing them any warrant of arrest.

Relatives of the detainees

claimed that the BDR personnel picked up many innocent persons during their swoop and assaulted several others who wanted to know about their faults and reasons of arrest.

The BDR personnel took away Farid Ahmed, a correspondent of the United News of Bangladesh (UNB), Kabir Ahmed Khan, university correspondent of the Dainik Ajker Kagoj from Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University.

293 arrested
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They also picked up six guards and employees of the university on charge of negligence in performing their duty.

Michael alias Mikail from Lalbagh; Golam Amin, Ataur Rahman, Litu alias BNP Litu from Demra; Chega Babul from Motijheel; Mustafiz, Samu, Masudur Rahman from Uttara; Marfat Ali, Ajmat from Cantonment; Kamal, Delwar, Abul Kalam, Sagar, Mamunur Rashid from Mohammadpur; Sazzad, Khokan, Richard, Kamruzzaman from Mirpur; and Saifuddin, Shanewaz, Sawpan from Pallabi were among the detainees.

When contacted BDR officials declined to talk to the Press.

55 arrested from
DU halls

Our Varsity Correspondent adds: In a sudden crackdown on different dormitories of Dhaka University, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested at least 55 persons including two university correspondents early Friday.

Some 1,200 BDR personnel conducted the predawn raid in four dormitories - Surya Sen Hall, Haji Muhsin Hall, Bangabandhu Hall and Salimullah Hall from 2:00 am to 5:00 am that resulted in the recovery of only four firearms.

Following the raid the BDR-men took the detainees to BDR Headquarters at Peelkhana. None was released till filing this report on Friday afternoon.

The university authorities were totally ignorant about the swoop. But they earlier gave a blank cheque to the law enforcing agencies to arrest anybody from the campus.

Residents of the four dormitories described the crackdown as excess.

As the news of appearance of para-military force on the campus spread, the student leaders expressed their resentment against the move.

"We welcome any terrorist-cleansing effort in the halls, but harassment of common students is not desired," said member of suspended central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).