

NEW MEDICAL ADMISSION SYSTEM

Police disperse protesters

Staff Correspondent

POLICE on Monday charged batons on medical admission seekers rallying at the Central Shaheed Minar to press for cancellation of the government decision to enrol students in medical and dental colleges on the basis of their results in HSC and SSC examinations.

The protesters tried to gather on the Shaheed Minar premises at about 9:00am but the police dispersed them.

At least six students were injured and eight others arrested during the police action.

The detainees released after five hours at about 2:30pm were Mosabbir Hos-sain Nibir, Emdadul Haque Tushar, Shihab Ahsan Khan, Muhammad Rubel, Ahmed Imtiaz, Zahid Hasan, Mah-

fiz Rahman Sadi and Fakhru Islam Sabbir.

Saiful Islam, a protester, told New Age that the police had barred the students from joining the 'citizens' rally' and later attacked them and picked up eight students from in front of Shaheed Minar.

Assistant commissioner of police (Ramna zone) Shibli Noman said none of the detainees was arrested, and they would be handed over to their guardians.

Shahbagh police patrol inspector Shahid Chowdhury said, 'Permission is required to hold a programme at the Central Shaheed Minar. But they did not take permission.'

Anannaya Banik, a protesting student said, 'We have not come here to create anarchy. We are here to

Continued on page 4 Col. 1

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Continued from page 1

ask the authorities to take admission tests. But police have obstructed our peaceful programme.'

In the afternoon a seven-member delegation of the protesting students submitted a memorandum to the office of prime minister Sheikh Hasina demanding restoration of the admission test system for enrolment in the first year MBBS and BDS courses.

Seven representatives of admission seekers - Anannaya Banik, Selina Akhter, Saiful Islam, Ashikur Rahman, Fazle Anwar Shakil,

SM Ashik and Shamimul Alam - submitted the memorandum to postal collection and distribution centre at the Prime Minister's Office.

The admission seekers, after being dispersed by the police, reassembled at the foot of Raju memorial monument on the Dhaka University campus and staged a sit-in defying rain.

Actor Rokeya Prachi and singer Mahmuduzzaman Babu, leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Bangladesh Chhatra Maitree, Samajtantik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation

expressed their solidarity with the students' demand.

They demanded restoration of the admission tests for enrolment in medical and dental colleges.

The admission seekers said they would form a human chain in front of the National Press Club this morning to press home their demand.

Admission seekers on Monday staged protests all over the country against the government decision. They organised rallies and human chains in Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna, Rangpur and other districts towns in sup-

port of their demand.

The government on August 12 decided that students for MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) and BDS (Bachelor of Dental Surgery) courses in medical and dental colleges would be admitted on the basis of their results in SSC and HSC examinations instead of admission tests.

New Age correspondents in Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Rangpur reported that protesters had staged demonstrations, formed human chains, and blocked roads to press home their demand.