

Students blast BDR crackdown DU Admin fails to ensure security

Varsity Correspondent

Dhaka University students burst into resentment after arrest, torture and harassment of their innocent friends during Friday's crackdown on resident dormitories by paramilitary BDR forces.

They raised their voice against the maltreatment by the BDR personnel, bringing out procession on the campus on Saturday. The demonstrators condemned the administration and the university authorities for their failure to guarantee the security and safety of the students of the country's highest seat of learning.

At least 250 students in the platform of general students held silent procession and rally and demanded inquiry into the fascist attack and exemplary punishment to the offenders.

Masked with black band, the

members of the Dhaka University Journalist Association (DUJA) staged a similar demonstration to protest the "arrogant behaviour" of the BDR with the students and the reporters as well.

"How dare! They entered the campus without permission. What did the VC and pro-VC did when BDR beat the students with boot and rifle," a girl student told the protest rally. A member of DUJA, Saiful Islam Ripon, said it is in no way enough to wear black badges to protest the heinous behaviour of the BDR forces.

The BDR arrested 85 persons, mostly general students, and two university reporters, six security guards and several guests from five dormitories. Only eight were detained while others acquitted.

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DU AGAIN

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since there were no charges against them.

The BDR-men arrested Farid Ahmed, university correspondent of news agency UNB, and Kabir Ahmed Khan of The Ajker Kagoj from Room No 464 of Muhsin Hall without any reason. "It was unwanted that a journalist would be arrested even after showing his identity card," said Farid. Hands and legs of the detained students were tied up and the BDR personnel kept them blindfolded for 18 hours.

Azizur Rahman, a resident student of Muhsin Hall, alleged that one BDR official broke his nose hitting with walkie-talkie when he tried to remove the blindfold.

Nurul Islam, a guardian of a female student who came to give money to his daughter, alleged the BDR personnel even did not allow him say prayers. "It was more than torture to me," he said adding, "I never missed the Jumma Prayer."

The university authorities showed total reluctance about the fate of the students. The DUJA officials said the VC was intentionally avoiding them when they tried to contact him.

The employees expressed their anger at the authorities' negligence in freeing them from the BDR custody. Students of the Business Studies Faculty will hold a demonstration protesting the attack.

When asked, President of Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Feroj Ahmed told this correspondent, "It's nothing but an attempt to make road for banning student politics and an invitation to the armed forces to interrupt in civil administration."

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