



তারিখ - ২২ অক্টোবর ১৯৭৬
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Legal action against JCD chief for opening fire at police

Opposition stages walkout over police action on DU campus

Jatiya Sangsad Wednesday witnessed heated exchange of allegations and counter-allegations and walk-out of Opposition BNP followed by Jamaat members over alleged firing and police action on Dhaka University Campus in the morning, reports BSS.

The Opposition MPs who stormed out of the House protesting Home Minister's "fabricated" statement on the Dhaka University situation returned to the floor later in the evening.

Jamaat MPs returned to the House at about 6 pm while the BNP members at 7.30 pm and took part in the ongoing budget discussion.

Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Jatiya Party Member Advocate Fazle Rabbi and Jamaat Member Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee took part in this unscheduled acrimonious debate over a point of order raised by BNP Member K M Obaidur Rahman over what he said a "bloodshedding situation on the Dhaka University campus.

As the Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid began the day's proceedings, BNP Member K M Obaidur Rahman took the floor and informed the House that over hundred of common students of Dhaka University and Chhatra Dal President Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny received bullet injuries from police firing Wednesday morning as, he alleged, the police stormed into Zia, Mujib and Surjansen halls opening fire at the common students.

K M Obaid requested the

Deputy Speaker to adjourn the House, visit the hospital and campus by all members for restoring peace in Dhaka University by assuring the common students.

He called upon the Speaker to accept the call attention notices on this matter of urgent public importance submitted Wednesday by himself and his opposition colleagues and said law and order situation sharply deteriorated across the country after the assumption of power

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Opposition stages walkout

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by the present government.

At this stage, the Deputy Speaker informed the House that discussions on law and order situation would be held for one hour some time later but not Wednesday.

Rising on his feet Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said firearm holders were nabbed from Dhaka University campus and none of them was student.

Mr. Nasim said members of law enforcing agency only took steps to protect the common students.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor and regretted that Wednesday's campus situation was quite different from Tuesday's and requested the chair to adjourn the House for an hours that all members make a visit to the campus and hospital and then come back to discuss this matter as it was an emergency situation.

Prof Chowdhury regretted that even in the presence of the Home Minister in the House the Telecommunications Minister Wednesday like Tuesday rose on his feet only to trigger off the acrimonious debate instead of solving this problem of grave concern of the nation.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition said the Communications Minister only touched upon the past but Chhatra Dal President Shahiduddin

Chowdhury Anny Wednesday received bullet injuries from police firing and was now struggling for his life in the

hospital.

Prof Chowdhury said armed cadres of the ruling party's student organisation Chhatra League, covered by the police personnel, Wednesday stormed in to the Dhaka Varsity campus and wounded hundreds of innocent students.

He condemned the atrocities and firing action of police only to give cover to the ruling party student organisation cadres and called upon the chair to give permission to discuss this most urgent matter for immediate resolution of this grave problem.

Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman rose to his feet and told the House that the situation is quite different from that alleged by the Opposition members and said armed Chhatra Dal members have been nabbed. He requested the chair to allow the Home Minister to give a statement on this matter.

RAFIQUL ISLAM

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam Bir Uttam Wednesday assured the Jatiya Sangsad and the nation of a peaceful campus and called upon opposition members to cooperate with the present government in maintaining law and order.

He also assured the House that the Dhaka University campus situation was now fully under control and government would take legal action against Chhatra Dal, President Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny for opening fire at the police.

The Home Minister was making a statement in the House on Wednesday's incident in the campus which generated

heated exchange of allegations and counter-allegations and walkout by opposition BNP followed by Jamaat members.

He described the Opposition members allegation as the most unfortunate, untrue and said he was making this statement in the House impromptu on the basis of wireless messages received from the police on Wednesday's incident.

Giving brief description of the incident, the Home Minister said police went to rescue Chhatra League worker Morsheuzzaman and other peace-loving students from the hands of Chhatra Dal activists opened fire at the members of the law enforcing agency.

He said police had recovered a cut rifle and three cartridges from room number 505 of Mohsin Hall belonging to a Chhatra Dal activist and arrested eight out of whom most were non-student outsiders.

He said Chhatra Dal activists had even set fire at the office room of Mohsin Hall Provost.

The Home Minister said he was hopeful over the understanding reached between the Chhatra League and Chhatra Dal leaders Tuesday but regretted that peace process was disrupted at a sinister signal.

He said the campus situation was now under control and his government had the people's mandate to take necessary action in this regard.

He said that he had instructed the police to show utmost restraint even in the face of provocations and the police acted of its own to tackle the situation when Chowdhury Anny opened fire at the police.

He said police had performed their duties and he (Home Minister) was in a meeting with foreigners when he came to know of the matter.

The Home Minister said the police would go by the book and this force had not been used for protecting Chhatra League workers but to protect the common students.