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Bangladesh: Students riot against military rule

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Thousands of students at Dhaka University (DU) fought running battles with police last night demanding removal of an army camp from the campus and an apology from the army for beating up three students earlier in the afternoon.

- DU erupts in violence as army men beat students
- Removal of army camp demanded, indefinite strike called

DU Correspondent

Thousands of students at Dhaka University (DU) fought running battles with police last night demanding removal of an army camp from the campus and an apology from the army for beating up three students earlier in the afternoon.

More than 150 students and four police were injured in the confrontations in which police fired rubber bullets and tear gas canisters as well as using water cannons and repeated baton charges. Students pelted police with stones and bricks.

At least 60 injured students received treatment from Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and DU Medical Centre. Five on-duty journalists of different dailies were also injured during the clashes.

Students protesting police and army brutality called an indefinite student strike at DU starting today.

Intermittent battles which had started in the evening between police and students continued until filing of this report around 1:30am. Police vehicles including water cannons were patrolling the campus streets at the time, firing tear gas canisters and hot water at the demonstrators.

Students took positions inside dormitories including Bangabandhu Hall, Zia Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Jashimuddin Hall, Zohurul Haq Hall, Muhsin Hall, Shahidulla Hall and other places and pelted police with stones and brickbats. They put tires and other things on fire at places to save themselves from the tear gas.

The demonstrators burnt effigies of the army chief and other flammable items like chairs and tables. They put up barricades on the road in front of Zohurul Haq Hall and at the intersection in front of Jasimuddin Hall with big branches of trees.

Police beat up Acting Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Proctor AKA Firoz Ahmed, Prof Haider's personal assistant Shahjahan Howlader, and other DU employees in the Central Shaheed Minar area.

One of the injured DU employees said they along with several students were going to DMCH to visit the injured students, when they approached the Shaheed Minar, police suddenly started beating the students. As Prof Haider and Prof Ahmed tried to save them, police beat them up too.

The demonstrating students beat up an intelligence official around 12:15am, and chased another high ranking intelligence official off the campus.

Female students took part in processions inside the dormitories protesting the police action.

All the entrances to the campus were sealed off as ambulances were running down the streets blasting their sirens and carrying the wounded.

The authorities directed law enforcing agencies to increase surveillance on other educational campuses also in and outside the capital, police sources said.

PRE-BATTLE SCENERIO

The initial cause of the demonstrations was an incident around 3.30pm yesterday when army personnel mercilessly beat three DU students and humiliated a teacher over a petty dispute concerning comments passed by spectators watching a soccer match on the university gymnasium ground where an army camp is situated.

The soccer match was between the departments of public administration and journalism. During a penalty shoot Mehedi Mohammad, a student of the public administration department stood up in front of a group of army personnel, obscuring their view.

Army members allegedly abused him verbally and asked him to move before beginning to beat Mehedi and his friends.

Mehedi along with Shafiq and Lucas all MSS students of public administration, and Dipu, a third year student of the same department, were taken to DMCH for treatment.

As Mubashsher Munayem, a teacher of public administration tried to stop the incident, the army personnel humiliated him too.

In protest, students demonstrated against the army action, demanding an apology and removal of the army camp from the campus. In response police baton charged the students injuring five or six of them.

By early evening, news of the events had spread, triggering a few thousand more students to pour onto the streets in protest.

Acting VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, Proctor Prof AKA Firoz Ahmed, assistant proctors and some other teachers rushed to the spot and sat with the army and students to reach a solution.

After the meeting Prof Haider said, "The officer-in-charge of the army unit Colonel Huda unconditionally expressed sorrow for the incident on behalf of his force and said they will take action against the responsible army personnel," but angry students demanded that the responsible apologize publicly and that the army camp be shifted.

Students were frightened when the army took video shots of the demonstrators as they chanted slogans against the army.

The proctor said, "I saw someone taking video shots from the rooftop, but when I talked to the army, they denied it was them."

THE BATTLE

After sometime students went to the campus and took part in a protest procession which started from the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) to press home their demand. As they approached the residence of the VC, police charged batons on the students from behind, injuring five demonstrators, including one female student.

Students were disbursed, but soon they were reinforced, as hundreds of students came out of different dormitories including Bangabandhu Hall, Zia Hall, Surya Sen Hall and Jashimuddin Hall and gathered at Mall Chattar on the campus, adjacent to VC's residence.

There, furious students vandalised a police vehicle with some police inside.

Then they marched towards the army camp at the gymnasium and got locked in a fierce battle with police. Police charged batons on the students, hurled tear shells, shot rubber bullets and chased them leaving many demonstrators injured.

Nazmul, a sophomore of the public administration department, was shot with rubber bullets in the face. He had to undergo a surgery.

In retaliation, students pelted police with brickbats, stones and other such things turning the area into a virtual battleground.

During the clashes, police picked four of the demonstrators and handed them over to the army. Minutes after they were taken inside the camp, screams were heard, witnesses said.

The battle spread from the gym to TSC, Rokeya Hall, the central library, VC's residence, Mall Chattar, Bangabandhu Hall, Zia Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Jashimuddin Hall, AF Rahman Hall, Shahidullah Hall, Muhsin Hall and other places of the campus.

Several hundred police took position on the streets, while the demonstrators continued to pelt them with brickbats and stones hiding behind buildings and from rooftops.

While the demonstrators were fighting with police, Acting VC Prof Haider and others university officials and teachers visited DU Medical Centre.

CGS MAJ GEN SINA IBNE JAMALI

Meanwhile, Chief of the General Staff of Army Maj Gen Sina Ibne Jamali visited DMCH to inquire about the injured students, but he came out of the hospital in the face of angry protest by the students.

He went back again with several other army personnel and five vehicles including an army ambulance around 11:45pm.

When he entered the DMCH compound, demonstrators chanted slogans.

Coming out of the hospital, General Jamali told reporters that he went to the hospital to inquire about the condition of the injured students and to assess whether they needed to be shifted to other hospitals including Combined Military Hospital for better treatment.

He said the students were excited. "I could not see them," he added.

Jamali also said he heard that the incident had taken place centring a game. "Our law is very strict. If any one is found guilty on our part, strict measures will be taken against that person," he said.

He also said steps will also be taken against people who will be found responsible for exacerbating the incident. He said the army had already formed an inquiry committee.

Asked whether the army camp will be removed from the campus, Jamali said, "We will definitely consider what the students have to say. We will respect their sentiment."

DU Teachers Association (Duta) General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain said the incident was unwanted. "We hope the authorities will take proper and immediate steps."

PANIC AT DMCH

After Jamali left the campus, police hurled tear gas canisters around Shahidullah Hall, adjacent to DMCH. The gas spread into DMCH emergency block causing panic among patients.

ARMY CAMP

The army set up a camp on December 10 last year at DU gymnasium. Since then the students have been alleging that the army has been hogging the gym depriving the students of chances of having physical exercise there.

"They have occupied our gymnasium, depriving us of physical exercise. Now they have begun beating us too," a student of the Bangla department said.

<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/depeches/0,14-0,39-32120801@7-37,0.html>

Heurts policiers-étudiants au Bangladesh, 150 blessés

21.08.07 | 19h08

DACCA (Reuters) - Des manifestants étudiants, furieux de devoir compter avec la présence de l'armée sur leur campus, ont incendié mardi un fourgon militaire et endommagé une cinquantaine d'autres véhicules lors de nouvelles violences à l'université de la capitale Dacca, ont rapporté des témoins.

Au moins 150 manifestants ont été blessés mardi dans l'intervention de la police, qui a fait usage de balles en caoutchouc et de gaz lacrymogènes pour les disperser sur le plus grand campus du Bangladesh, qui compte 40.000 étudiants.

Le gouvernement de transition, qui avait déployé l'armée en janvier au terme de plusieurs mois de violences politiques, a annoncé avoir ordonné aux militaires de se retirer du campus, à la suite des manifestations. Depuis le 12 janvier, l'armée campait dans le gymnase du campus, ce qui alimentait la colère étudiante.

Lundi, une centaine d'étudiants avaient été blessés dans d'autres heurts.

L'association des professeurs de l'université de Dacca a apporté son soutien aux revendications étudiantes concernant le camp militaire. Les autorités universitaires ont reporté tous les cours et les examens et les étudiants ont lancé un mot d'ordre de grève illimitée à l'université.

Les troubles de lundi et mardi ont constitué la première contestation notable des restrictions imposées par l'état d'urgence, dit-on de source autorisée.

<http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/news/stories/s2011264.htm>

Police use tear gas on Bangladeshi students

Last Updated 21/08/2007, 17:29:46

Police used tear gas and batons in battles with thousands of students in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka.

Police say dozens were hurt in the clashes, which erupted after several students were allegedly manhandled by army soldiers during a football match.

A protest demonstration at the Dhaka university campus degenerated into a full-scale riot involving more than 5,000 students.

Protests and street demonstrations have been illegal since January when the country's military-backed emergency government took power after months of violent protests over vote-rigging allegations.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/001200708211244.htm>

100 injured as riots erupt in Dhaka University campus

Dhaka, Aug. 21 (PTI): At least 100 students were injured in fierce overnight clashes with police as protests erupted in the Dhaka University campus after military personnel assaulted several students during a football match.

The campus virtually turned into a battlefield as police lobbed teargas shells, fired rubber bullets and used batons and water canons to disperse the stone-pelting students who were demanding the withdrawal of security forces from the campus here.

Witnesses said the clash was sparked off last evening after soldiers, who came to witness a student football match, assaulted three students following an argument at the main university playground, where a makeshift military camp was set up after imposition of Emergency on January 11.

"The action came after a group of students initially demanded an apology from the soldiers and then marched to the army camp and pelted it with stones when the troops countered the students with batons," a witness said.

University authorities cancelled the scheduled examinations as angry students called a strike while riot police enforced a night-long siege around the campus at the heart of Bangladesh capital.

Acting Vice Chancellor Professor AFM Yusuf Haidar and several other teachers were also assaulted by police after midnight when they tried to go to the nearby Dhaka Medical College Hospital where at least 50 students were being treated.

<http://www.rtlinfo.be/news/article/25859/-->

Heurts+entre+des+%C3%A9tudiants+et+la+police+au+Bangladesh:+des+blees%C3%A9s

Heurts entre des étudiants et la police au Bangladesh: des blessés

ASIE - PACIFIQUE mar 21 août

Plusieurs dizaines de personnes ont été blessées dans la nuit de lundi à mardi dans la capitale bangladaise, Dacca, lors de heurts qui ont opposé des milliers d'étudiants aux forces de l'ordre, selon la police et des témoins.

Les échauffourées ont éclaté lundi soir à l'issue d'un match de football durant lequel plusieurs

étudiants auraient été molestés par des militaires, selon un responsable de la police, Shahidul Islam. Une manifestation sur le campus de l'Université de Dacca contre les agressions présumées des militaires a alors dégénéré en bataille rangée, selon la même source. Le président de l'Université, Yusuf Haider, a estimé à une centaine le nombre de ses étudiants blessés alors que la police, qui a fait usage de bâtons et de gaz lacrymogènes, évoquait le chiffre de 30 blessés. Les heurts ont pris fin à 03H30 (lundi 23H30, HB), selon la police. Le gouvernement intérimaire installé à Dacca depuis janvier et appuyé par les militaires, a restreint les libertés publiques et interdit notamment les rassemblements. (GFR)

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90777/6244775.html>

Dhaka student-police clash continues for second day

16:45, August 21, 2007

Violence broke out on Dhaka University campus and its adjacent areas Tuesday as angry students clashed with riot police and burnt and damaged dozens of passing vehicles demanding withdrawal of an army camp from the university compound.

Campus witness said several thousand students armed with sticks defied police barricade and indiscriminately damaged 20 to 25 buses and cars.

Police retaliated by throwing tear gas shells to disperse the angry students who hurled stones from Dhaka University Library and Fine Arts Institute, leaving several students, police and press photographers injured.

Despite assurance from acting Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof. Yusuf Haider that the army camp will be withdrawn, the students staged demonstration outside the VC's residence and burnt a university pick-up van. They also broke the main gate of the residence.

The roads leading to the university campus were blocked for traffic. Classes and examinations were suspended in the wake of violence as general students declared non-stop strike at Dhaka University until their demand is met.

Dhaka University teachers sat for an emergency meeting to review the situation on the campus.

The violence first erupted on Monday afternoon when some army personnel who live in the camp of the university beat up a student and also humiliated a teacher of the university during a football match at the university central playground.

The army camp was established after the state of emergency was declared by President Iajuddin Ahmed on Jan. 11 to avoid further deterioration of political situation in the country.

This is the first time a major student violence broke out in Dhaka University since Jan. 11.

Dhaka University is the best state university in Bangladesh. It is alleged to be the cradle of student political movement.

Source: Xinhua

5,000 students riot against police in Bangladesh

Posted Tue Aug 21, 2007 7:53pm AEST

About 100 students have been injured in an overnight campus battle with security forces at Bangladesh's biggest university.

The violence erupted after the students protested against the presence of army troops at a stadium at Dhaka University during a football match.

The troops assaulted some protesters, fuelling the unrest, which soon spread across the 40,000 student campus.

Police chief Shahidul Islam said a protest demonstration degenerated into a full-scale riot involving more than 5,000 students.

Witnesses said hundreds of police rushed in, firing tear gas and rubber bullets. The students hit back with sticks and stones.

The battle raged through most of the night before the students returned to their dormitories. University authorities postponed all classes and exams.

The students have called for an indefinite strike at the university and have demanded immediate dismantling of the army camp on the university grounds.

Violence flared again during the day as hundreds of students returned to the campus carrying sticks and challenging police. Police responded by firing tear gas shells.

As reports of the Dhaka University violence spread beyond the capital, students at Jahangirnagar University, 40 kilometres north of the city, came out of their classes and barricaded a highway for several hours.

They also damaged at least a dozen vehicles on the highway.

Troops have been camping at the gymnasium since the country's army-backed interim government imposed a state of emergency in January, in the wake of widespread political violence.

It banned all political activities and protests.

This unrest is the first major defiance of the emergency restrictions.

The chief of army general staff, Major-General Sina Ibn Jamali, visited the Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see the injured and said the offenders would be punished.

- **Reuters**

Students torch army vehicle in Bangladesh

Dhaka, Aug. 21 (PTI): Students in the Bangladeshi capital today torched an army vehicle and smashed several others as they battled with police who tried to break up sporadic rallies following overnight clashes at the premier Dhaka University that left at least 100 injured.

The midnight clashes took place after military troops allegedly assaulted several students over a petty dispute during a football match at the campus.

Students, who are demanding withdrawal of the army from the campus, where troops have set up a makeshift camp, continued their protest today by staging sporadic rallies defying Emergency rules and battling baton-wielding police.

They set fire to an army vehicle and beat up its driver as it was crossing a road near the campus and smashed several vehicles at Shahbagh and Nilkhet on the fringe of the university.

Showing solidarity with their counterparts, students from the suburban Jahangirnagar University and Islamic University in western Kushtia staged protest marches and enforced a siege on the major Dhaka-Aricha highway halting traffic movements for hours until riot police backed by reinforcement of extra forces dispersed them.

Dhaka University Teachers Association has thrown its weight behind the students following an emergency meeting, demanding the army camp be withdrawn from the campus by Wednesday noon.

Witnesses said the clash was sparked off after army soldiers, who came to witness a student football match, reportedly assaulted three students following arguments at the main university playground.

"The action came after a group of students initially demanded an apology from the soldiers and then marched to the army camp and pelted it with stones, when the troops countered them with batons," a witness said.

Bangladesh army's chief of general staff (CGS) Major General Ibne Jamali has promised strict action against security personnel who were found guilty. "Our (military) law is very strict, I can guarantee you, if someone is found guilty on our part, strict actions will be taken against him," Jamali told newsmen after visiting the injured students.

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday cancelled the scheduled examinations after the capital's university campus turned into a virtual battlefield as police lobbed teargas shells, fired rubber bullets and used batons and water canons to disperse the stone-pelting students.

Acting vice chancellor Professor AFM Yusuf Haidar and several other teachers too were exposed to police beating after midnight as they tried to go to the nearby Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where at least 50 students were being treated.

Jamali said the army would consider the demand for removal of the makeshift camp from the university gymnasium saying, "we will respect to their sentiment".

The Vice chancellor Haidar has said the officer in charge of the army camp at the campus, Colonel Huda, had expressed an "unconditional sorrow" for the incident on behalf of his force.

Bangladesh Students, Police Clash

By PARVEEN AHMED 08.21.07, 1:45 PM ET

DHAKA, BANGLADESH -

The Bangladesh government ordered soldiers to leave a university campus Tuesday, after two days of clashes between student protesters and police left more than 150 injured, officials and news reports said.

Police were among about 100 people hurt in Monday's clashes at Dhaka University campus, local media reported.

The student protests - in defiance of emergency rules - were triggered by a dispute between students and soldiers earlier Monday during a soccer match on the campus in Dhaka, Bangladesh's capital, said university official A.F.M. Haider.

Clashes resumed Tuesday when police tried to break up more than 500 students demanding the army withdraw from the campus, said university teacher Golam Rahman.

The unrest spread to other nearby campuses, where students boycotted classes and took to the streets shouting anti-government slogans, halting traffic and damaging dozens of vehicles.

At Dhaka College near a busy downtown shopping area, riot police fired tear gas and used water canons to disperse stone-throwing protesters. The ensuing melee forced shops to close and kept cars off the streets, the private CSB News network said.

More than 50 people were injured in Tuesday's clashes, while at least 30 vehicles were burned or otherwise vandalized, the United News of Bangladesh news agency said.

University staff, meanwhile, joined students in demanding that an army camp - set up at a university gymnasium since emergency rule was declared in January - be removed by Wednesday, spokesman Anwar Hossain said.

Witnesses said soldiers were packing up late Tuesday.

In a statement earlier Tuesday, the country's military-backed interim government said it had ordered soldiers to leave the campus.

The government also expressed regret for the violent incidents, and ordered a judicial inquiry.

In a separate statement, the army said that it was investigating Monday's dispute that led to the violence, and that it would take action against the soldiers involved.

The soccer dispute apparently involved a group of soldiers and students arguing over watching a live match, witnesses said. The scuffle reportedly left five students injured.

As news of the soccer incident spread, hundreds of students rallied later Monday, demanding punishment of the soldiers and removal of the army camp. Hundreds of police were deployed on the campus to stop the protests.

A caretaker government has been running Bangladesh since January 11, when President Iajuddin Ahmed canceled scheduled elections and declared a state of emergency. His measures followed weeks of violent street protests and crippling strikes by opposition parties demanding electoral reforms.

Public demonstrations and strikes are banned under the emergency rules.

<http://www.newkerala.com/july.php?action=fullnews&id=55397>

Students protest across Bangladesh, demand military government to go

Dhaka, Aug 21 : Students continued their protests across Bangladesh for the second consecutive day demanding reinstatement of democracy and the removal of military-backed interim government.

Students clashed with riot police in three universities in or near the capital, Dhaka, and in the southern city of Chittagong and Kushtia in the west.

At least 100 students were injured in the clashes, reported the BBC.

The Dhaka University witnessed the worst of the clashes. Students threw stones and set fires across the campus. Police responded by using batons and tear gas.

At least 15 students were injured on Tuesday in the second day of clashes.

The students have set a Wednesday deadline for an army camp at Dhaka University to be disbanded.

The army has kept a low profile during the protests.

A military-backed government has run Bangladesh for the past six months. The government, which has vowed to stamp out corruption, has promised to restore democracy by the end of next year.

But a discontent is growing across the country. The present trouble followed an argument between students and members of an army unit that has been garrisoned at Dhaka University since January.

Defying emergency laws against gatherings and protests, the trouble turned into a full-scale riot.

--- ANI

http://www.weeklyblitz.net/index.php?subaction=showfull&id=1187787732&archive=&start_from=&ucat=2

Dhaka turns suddenly violent **Special Correspondent**

Weekly Blitz, Bangladesh - Aug 22, 2007



From Monday afternoon, violence in Dhaka city started with some confrontation between members of the law enforcing agencies and students of Dhaka University [DU]. Meanwhile, television channels owned by corrupt BNP and Awami League men have started well-organized provocative campaign to give instigations to students and public in making the situation worst. The alleged television channels are continuing to broadcast news and commentaries with the motive of involving mass people in the agitation in order to make it much complicated. It is learnt from dependable sources that owners of these TV channels sent special message from prison to give maximum provocations to the incident in order to put the government into difficult situation. It may be mentioned here that, there are eight private television channels in Bangladesh out of ten, which are owned by front ranking leaders of Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] and Awami League. According to information, more than 100 students and teachers of Dhaka University were injured as demonstrators fought running battles with the police protesting against the presence of army troops on the campus Monday evening.

The acting vice chancellor of the university, AFM Yusuf Haider, and the proctor AKA Firowz Ahmed were also injured in police action and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells leaving scores of protesters injured. A number of them were taken to hospital in critical condition. The students called strike at Dhaka University for an indefinite period protesting at the police atrocities.

The protest began after some army personnel assaulted a teacher and some students on the university playground during a football match in the afternoon. The students demanded immediate dismantling of a makeshift army camp from the university gymnasium.

More than 100 students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the DU medical centre while some were detained by the law enforcing agencies. The chief of general staff, Major General Sina Ibn Jamali, visited the hospital, where he faced protest.

Coming out of the hospital at around 11.30pm on Monday, he told reporters that he went there to visit the injured students and to see whether they needed to be shifted to the Combined Military Hospital.

The angry students damaged a police car on patrol in front of the vice- chancellor's residence and several others in front of the Teachers-Students Centre and kept staging protests till late into the night. On Tuesday morning, Dhaka University students also set fire on a military vehicle.

Witnesses said army personnel in plain clothes beat up a number of students in the gallery of the DU playground during a football match between the departments of Public Administration and Mass Communication and Journalism sparking the protests. The students alleged that the soldiers from the camp in plain clothes watching the football match hurled abuse at a master's student who returned the insults.

The army personnel then beat up five of the students and also abused and shoved a teacher who

came forward to save the students.

Four of the students were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital first and one of them, who sustained critical injuries, was later admitted to the DU medical centre.

The soldiers kicked the students who came to enjoy the football match.

The DU authorities including the acting vice-chancellor, Professor AFM Yusuf Haider, proctor AKA Feroz and an assistant proctor went to the scene and sat with the commanding officer of the army camp, Lieutenant Colonel Huda.

The officer apologized for the incident and assured the teachers that action would be taken against those responsible but the students demanded that the officer should come out and apologize in public. At one stage, the soldiers started taking video shots of the students and teachers from atop the gymnasium apparently to identify the agitating students later.

The commanding officer denied that the soldiers had taken snaps of the students when it was brought to his notice by the proctor. The students then started protests demanding withdrawal of army troops from the campus.

Chanting slogans, the students and paraded the DU campus and staged demonstrations in front of the vice-chancellor's official residence in the evening. Police charged batons to disperse the protesters there leaving at least seven students injured.

The government on Tuesday withdrew the army camp from Dhaka University in the face of student protest that continued for two days beginning with the manhandling of some students by army men at the university playground Monday afternoon.

The army men garrisoned at the university gymnasium since January started leaving the campus at about 10:45pm. Ten army trucks left the campus at the time while clashes continued on the campus and in some areas near by till 11:15pm.

More than 250 students were injured during the agitation as the students fought pitched battle with the police for two days.

The agitation spilled outside the campus in Dhaka and over to other campuses, where students demanded that army camps should be withdrawn from all educational institutions.

The government on Tuesday decided to carry out a judicial inquiry into the clashes and apologized for the incidents.

About 100 vehicles were damaged on and around the campus. An army vehicle was set on fire between Shahbagh and the Kataban crossing. The students also set fire to seven other vehicles on the campus and on the Mirpur Road between Nilkhet and the Science Lab, witnesses said.

As the students brought out processions, the police charged at them with truncheons, fired rubber bullets and blank shots, and lobbed several hundred tear gas canisters to tackle the situation. The police also lobbed tear gas canisters inside the halls of residence.

The university authorities suspended all the examinations scheduled for a week amid a call for a strike made by the students on Monday at all educational institutions for an indefinite period.

The demonstrators burnt the chief adviser, Fakhruddin Ahmed, in an effigy Tuesday afternoon. The students also burnt two effigies of the army chief, General Moeen U Ahmed, at Aparajeya Bangla on the campus early in the day.

The students of Dhaka College joined hands with DU students in fight with the police Monday night.

Echoing the demand for the withdrawal of army from educational institutions, students brought out processions at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Jagannath University, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University, Kabi Nazrul College in Dhaka, Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, Islamic University in Kushtia, Brajamohan College in Barisal, and Michael Madhusudan College in Jessore on Tuesday.

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association at a general meeting on Tuesday extended support for the student demands and gave the authorities till Wednesday noon to pull out troops from the campus.

The teachers' associations of Jahangirnagar University [JU] and Rajshahi University [RU] also

extended their support for the demands of students.

The RU teachers along with the students brought out a procession on their campus on Tuesday.

Political parties and socio-cultural organizations also extended their support for the students.

The government expressed its regret at the incident and gave an assurance of troop withdrawal. The Inter Service Public Relations Department in a release on Tuesday said that the soldiers involved in Monday's incident had been withdrawn and proceedings had been initiated against them.

The injured students received primary treatment in Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the university medical centre and Orthopedics Hospital.

Most students were injured in the head, leg and hand. Some of them were injured with rubber bullets, said Abdur Rahman, an officer at the university medical centre.

The clashes resulted from an altercation between some students and some army men in plain clothes watching a friendly football match at the university playground Monday afternoon.

As the army picked up some students, their fellows gathered and protested at the incident. The pro-vice-chancellor, AFM Yousuf Haider, who is now acting vice-chancellor, and the proctor, AKA Firowz Ahmed, reached the place to tackle the situation.

As the matter could not be settled, the students ran riot, bringing out processions and chasing the police overnight. The police also chased the students. More than 150 students were injured Monday night as the police charged at them with truncheons, fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas canisters.

The acting vice-chancellor and the proctor were beaten by the police when they were returning from Dhaka Medical College Hospital after receiving first aid as they had fallen ill in the clouding tear gas.

The campus remained volatile overnight as the residents stayed out of the halls of residence on the street starting fires here and there.

The students took to the streets Tuesday morning defying heightened security after overnight clashes.

The students in small processions gathered at Aparajeya Bangla at around 10:00am and marched towards the Curzon Hall in a large procession.

As the procession reached the Raju Memorial Monument, the police lobbed tear gas canisters. The law enforcers also charged at the students with truncheons and lobbed tear gas canisters inside the Rokea Hall.

After the clash with the police, the students gathered near the vice-chancellor's house and started throwing stones at the gate.

Another group reached Shahbagh and damaged more than 50 vehicles. They burnt a military vehicle and injured its driver.

As the police attacked the students, they retreated to the Institute of Fine Art and began throwing stones at the police.

Within minutes, the street became filled with stones. The students started fire with tyres and garbage every 20 yards along the street to weaken the pungency of tear gas.

Witnesses said the police fired blank shots and charged at the students inside the institute with truncheons. The students retaliated and escaped by breaking the wall between the fine arts institute and the Institute of Business Administration.

The police stopped all vehicle movement on the campus and barricaded all the entry points.

Vehicle movement stopped on the Mirpur Road between the Science Lab and Nilkeht and on the Elephant Road.

The students under the banner of Students against Repression at a briefing at Madhu's Canteen in the afternoon said they would enforce a strike for indefinite period at all educational institutions across the country if their demands were not met by Wednesday.

They demanded a public apology from army chief, Moeen U Ahmed, by Wednesday noon for the playground incident.

The students demanded punishment to the persons responsible for the incident, proper treatment of and compensation for the injured students, release of the arrested and removal of all legal

obstructions to democratic movement.

They also denounced censorship imposed on media regarding the news of the agitation.

After the briefing, a group of students, backed by the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, brought out a procession and demanded resignation of the army chief and withdrawal of the state of emergency. The students of other universities and colleges on Tuesday brought out processions demanding that army men should be withdrawn from all educational institutions.

The students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology formed a human chain on their campus extending support for the student demands.

Students went out on demonstrations at Jagannath University and set fire to three buses. The police charged at the students with truncheons when they encircled the university vice-chancellor, who was getting off his vehicle. Three students were injured. The students called for a strike for indefinite period.

At least 10 students of the Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University in Dhaka were injured in police action as they brought out a procession in protest at Monday's incident. The students vandalized vehicles at the second gate of the university at Agargaon.

Students at Jahangirnagar University blocked the Dhaka-Aricha Road at around 10:30am, vandalized 4 buses, 2 trucks and 2 police vans. Law enforcers charged at the agitating students with truncheons.

The students boycotted all the classes and examinations on Tuesday and called strike for Wednesday.

The JU Teachers' Association demanded withdrawal of army camps from all universities and trial of the army men responsible for the DU incident.

The teachers and students of Rajshahi University, wearing black badges, brought out a procession and the police took away the banners.

Chhatra Samgram Parishad at Rajshahi University called a countrywide student strike for Wednesday.

Students brought out a procession at Chittagong University and the teachers forced nine of the students to give an undertaking that they would not violate the Emergency Powers Rules in future.

Students at the Islamic University went out on demonstrations against the police attack on DU students. They locked the main university gate and boycotted classes and examinations.

Students, except for the activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, brought out a procession at Michael Madhusudan College in protest at the DU incident.

The students of Brajamohan College in Barisal brought out a silent procession and handed over a memorandum to the college principal to press home the demands of the students in 12 hours. They also threatened a strike for indefinite period.

The military-backed interim government on Tuesday decided to hold a judicial inquiry into the violent clashes that were sparked off by the assault on Dhaka University students and teachers by soldiers on Monday and to withdraw army camp from the campus.

A high-level meeting, held at the Chief Adviser's Office on Tuesday with Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair, apologized for the incidents at the Dhaka University and for the assault on students and teachers by the soldiers in the university's playground during a football match on Monday afternoon.

Posted on 22 Aug 2007 by Root

<http://www.rtlinfo.be/news/article/26329/-->

Face+aux+violences+%C3%A9tudiantes,+le+Bangladesh+impose+un+couvre-feu

Face aux violences étudiantes, le Bangladesh impose un couvre-feu

ASIE - PACIFIQUE

mer 22 août

Le gouvernement du Bangladesh, soutenu par l'armée, fait face à sa plus grave crise depuis sa nomination en janvier sous l'état d'urgence et a imposé mercredi un couvre-feu illimité dans six villes du pays, après trois jours de violentes manifestations étudiantes.

"Le gouvernement a déclaré un couvre-feu dans six villes à compter de 20H00 (14H00 GMT) et jusqu'à nouvel ordre", a annoncé le porte-parole du gouvernement Fahim Munaim.

Toutes les universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur seront également fermés dans ces localités, a-t-il ajouté. Les six villes concernées sont la capitale Dacca, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal et Khulna, a précisé M. Munaim.

Avant l'instauration de ces mesures d'exception, une personne avait été tuée mercredi et plusieurs dizaines blessées à Rajshahi au cours de nouveaux heurts entre étudiants et policiers anti-émeute. Les uns jetant des pierres, les autres ripostant par des tirs de gaz lacrymogènes.

Des violences sporadiques ont encore éclaté à l'université de Dacca où les étudiants exigent depuis lundi le départ des forces de sécurité stationnées depuis janvier sur leur campus. Les soldats ont bien quitté les lieux dans la matinée, mais cela n'a pas suffi à apaiser la colère estudiantine.

Les télévisions montraient aussi des manifestants armés de bâtons et de pierres, circulant dans Dacca et dans la cité méridionale de Chittagong.

Les échauffourées ont commencé lundi à l'issue d'un match de football pendant lequel plusieurs étudiants ont été molestés par des militaires, selon la police. Une manifestation contre ces agressions présumées a alors dégénéré en bataille rangée faisant entre trente et une centaine de blessés.

Avant d'imposer un couvre-feu, les autorités avaient appelé au calme et menacé de réprimer les "agitateurs".

"Si la police ne parvient pas à contrôler la situation, cela veut dire que l'imposition de la loi martiale est inévitable", a avancé un analyste, sous le couvert de l'anonymat. Un autre commentateur à Dacca est du même avis mais, selon lui, les généraux bangladais sont divisés sur cette question.

Un gouvernement intérimaire de technocrates bangladais a pris le pouvoir le 12 janvier dernier, porté par les militaires, après l'annulation d'élections législatives prévues dix jours plus tard.

Depuis lors, les autorités étaient plutôt populaires.

Elles se sont lancées dans une vaste purge de l'ancienne classe dirigeante présumée corrompue de ce pays pauvre d'Asie du Sud. Les libertés publiques ont aussi été restreintes et plus de 150 responsables politiques, hommes d'affaires et hauts fonctionnaires ont été arrêtés.

Un nouveau scrutin législatif doit tout de même avoir lieu d'ici à la fin 2008.

Aujourd'hui confronté à ses premières contestations d'importance depuis sept mois, le pouvoir a accusé mercredi des personnes qui ne seraient pas des étudiants d'avoir orchestré les dernières manifestations, en particulier à Dacca.

A la mi-juillet, le gouvernement avait fait arrêter Cheikh Hasina Wajed, dirigeante de l'opposition et ancien Premier ministre, et fait interroger sa rivale et également ex-Premier ministre, Khaleda Zia.

Mmes Zia et Hasina monopolisaient depuis 15 ans le système politique bangladais, se succédant comme Premier ministre et opposante entre 1991 et 2006. Dacca avait tenté au printemps dernier de contraindre les deux femmes à l'exil, mais les projets avaient échoué.

<http://www.lemonde.fr/web/depeches/0,14-0,39-32127853@7-37,0.html>

Un couvre-feu illimité imposé dans six villes au Bangladesh

REUTERS 22.08.07 | 13h13

Par Nizam Ahmed

DACCA (Reuters) - Le gouvernement provisoire du Bangladesh, soutenu par l'armée, annonce qu'un couvre-feu illimité sera imposé à compter de 20h00 (14h00 GMT) à Dacca et dans cinq autres villes à la suite de manifestations étudiantes qui ont fait un mort et plusieurs centaines de blessés.

"Toutes les universités et tous les établissements d'enseignement supérieur des six villes ont reçu l'ordre de fermer pour une durée indéterminée", a déclaré à Reuters Fahim Munaim, porte-parole du gouvernement.

"Il a été demandé aux étudiants de toutes les universités de ces villes d'évacuer leurs dortoirs d'ici ce soir 20h00, avant l'entrée en vigueur du couvre-feu".

Les manifestations d'étudiants qui ont débuté sur le campus de l'Université de Dacca avant de s'étendre à d'autres établissements au Bangladesh ont fait un mort et quelque 300 blessés mercredi, ont rapporté des témoins.

La victime, un tireur de pousse-pousse, a été pris au milieu des affrontements entre policiers et étudiants dans une université de Rajshahi, dans le nord-est du pays. Une centaine d'étudiants au moins y ont été blessés, ont rapporté des témoins.

On dénombre aussi une centaine de blessés à Dacca, la capitale, et au moins huit véhicules ont été incendiés, tandis que la police anti-émeutes tirait des balles en caoutchouc et des grenades lacrymogènes sur les étudiants soutenus par des militants politiques.

Les manifestations de mercredi ont éclaté en dépit de la décision du gouvernement provisoire de retirer l'armée du campus de l'université de Dacca où sa présence avait provoqué les jours précédents de violentes manifestations.

Des étudiants de l'université de Rajshahi ont défilé avec le corps du tireur de pousse-pousse en accusant la police d'être responsable de sa mort, mais un responsable de la police a dit qu'il avait été atteint par des briques jetées par des étudiants.

DÉTÉRIORATION DE LA SITUATION

A Dacca, des étudiants de plusieurs instituts supérieurs et universités sont descendus dans la rue pour manifester leur soutien à leurs camarades de l'Université de Dacca, la plus grande du pays, qui boycottaient les cours et les examens pour le troisième jour consécutif.

Mardi soir, des manifestants ont attaqué le domicile du conseiller du gouvernement chargé de l'éducation, Ayub Qadri, a rapporté la police.

Le bureau d'une entreprise commerciale appartenant à un autre conseiller du gouvernement, Tapan Chowdhury, a été attaqué mercredi.

Les troubles ont débuté lundi soir sur le campus de l'Université de Dacca avec l'attaque par des militaires d'étudiants qui manifestaient contre la présence de soldats à un match de football qui se déroulait dans le centre sportif du campus.

Des militaires sont cantonnés dans le complexe depuis qu'en janvier un gouvernement provisoire a pris le pouvoir après plusieurs mois de violences politiques dans le pays.

Le gouvernement provisoire a retiré mardi soir les militaires du campus et a promis de sanctionner ceux qui ont débuté les violences.

Mais cette décision n'a pas apaisé les étudiants et ils ont recueilli le soutien de partis politiques qui réclament la levée immédiate de l'interdiction des activités politiques imposée par le gouvernement provisoire.

Des heurts ont aussi opposé étudiants et policiers à Barisal et Khulna, des villes du sud, et à Sylhet, dans le nord-est.

Des étudiants de l'Université Jahangirnagar, à Savar, à 40 km au nord de Dacca, ont barré une autoroute mercredi et ont affronté les policiers qui tentaient de les disperser, ont rapporté des témoins.

"La situation se détériore et les enseignants viennent maintenant se joindre aux étudiants qui manifestent", a confié un policier, à Dacca.

Des témoins ont rapporté que de nombreuses personnes mécontentes de la hausse des prix des produits de base et des pénuries d'électricité et d'eau potable s'étaient jointes aux manifestations.

<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20070023478>

Student riots spread in Dhaka

Press Trust of India

Wednesday, August 22, 2007 (Dhaka)

Despite Bangladesh's interim government's efforts to quell the violence, student riots spread across Dhaka on Wednesday.

Earlier on Tuesday night, Protesters attacked the house of a cabinet member and damaged nearly 100 vehicles.

A group of unidentified youths attacked the residence of Education Adviser Ayub Kadri in the posh Dhanmondi area in Dhaka, witnesses claimed.

Inmates of the house and police, however, said no one was injured as the protestors left the scene

after pelting stones and hurling abuses before the police arrived at the scene.

The interim government of Fakhruddin Ahmed on Tuesday night ordered the withdrawal of army from the Dhaka University as demanded by the agitating students after a "high-level" meeting attended by army chief General Moeen U Ahmed.

Troops were seen leaving the campus in trucks.

The government also promised a judicial probe into the alleged beating of several students by army personnel following a quarrel during a football match and subsequent police action in the campus which sparked riots and expressed its "deep regret" over the incident.

Several hundred people, who identified themselves as "evicted" street vendors, joined the midnight violence in the areas adjoining the campus and Dhanmondi area where they damaged 100 vehicles and two superstore.

Students also clashed with riot police inside the campus until midnight, pelting stones on law enforcers who lobbed scores of tear gas shells targeting the dormitories, witnesses claimed.

More than 250 students and several policemen have been injured in the campus violence.

http://www.mg.co.za/articlepage.aspx?area=/breaking_news/breaking_news__international_news/&articleid=317223

Hundreds hurt in Bangladesh student protests

Nizam Ahmed | Dhaka, Bangladesh

22 August 2007 12:19

A man was killed and about 300 people were injured on Wednesday as a student protest that began at Bangladesh's Dhaka University spread to other institutions in the city and across the country, witnesses said.

The victim, a rickshaw-puller, was caught in clashes between police and students at a university in the north-western city of Rajshahi. At least 100 students were injured, witnesses said.

Another 100 people were injured in the capital, Dhaka, and at least eight vehicles were set ablaze as riot police fired rubber bullets and tear gas on violent students backed by political activists.

The protests erupted on Wednesday despite the military-backed interim administration's move to withdraw troops from the Dhaka University campus following violent protests from the students.

Students at Rajshahi university marched with the body of the rickshaw puller, blaming police for his death. But a police official said he was hit by bricks thrown by the students.

In Dhaka students from half a dozen colleges and universities took to the streets, chanting support for comrades at Dhaka University -- the country's largest -- who boycotted classes and exams for a third day.

Protesters attacked the home of education adviser to the government, Ayub Qadri, on Tuesday night, police said.

An office of a business firm owned by another government adviser, Tapan Chowdhury, was also

attacked on Wednesday.

"The city is in turmoil, there is smoke billowing from burning tyres," a police officer said.

The fighting had started at the Dhaka University campus on Monday evening after troops assaulted some students protesting against the presence of soldiers at a football match held at the gymnasium compound.

Troops had been based in the complex since January when an interim administration took power after months of political violence in the country.

Classes and exams at the 40 000-student school have been suspended, with students across Bangladesh calling for a countrywide strike.

The army-backed interim government withdrew the offending army camp on Tuesday night and promised to punish those responsible for starting the violence.

But the students have refused to be appeased, and gained backing from political parties who called for an immediate end of the nationwide ban on political activity imposed by the interim government after it took charge.

Political analysts fear the student protest may pose a serious challenge to the army-backed government, which plans to hold a free and fair election late next year.

Students also clashed with police in the southern towns of Barisal and Khulna and in the north-eastern Sylhet town.

Students from Jahangirnagar University at Savar, 40km north of Dhaka, barricaded a highway and clashed with police trying to disperse them on Wednesday, witnesses said.

"The situation is deteriorating as teachers now have come out to join protesting students," said another police officer in Dhaka.

The violence has shut shops, forced public transport off the streets and caused panic among residents in affected areas, witnesses said.

Witnesses said people angry over soaring commodity prices and shortage of electricity and clean water also joined the students' protests. -- Reuters

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation_world/20070822_ap_bangladeshimposescurfewafterprotests.html

Posted on Wed, Aug. 22, 2007

Bangladesh Imposes Curfew After Protests

JULHAS ALAM

The Associated Press



PAVEL RAHMAN

A riot policeman chases a protester during a demonstration demanding an end to emergency rule, near the Dhaka University campus in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2007. Violent clashes between police and students left about 100 people injured at university campuses across Bangladesh on Wednesday, witnesses and news reports said. (AP Photo/Pavel Rahman)

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Clashes between Bangladeshi police and students demanding an end to emergency rule spilled into the streets of the capital Wednesday, prompting the government to impose an indefinite curfew.

The government's order came after students rampaged through the streets of Dhaka, setting cars and buses on fire and battling with police, who used batons and tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Wednesday also saw the first death since the clashes erupted two days earlier at the University of Dhaka. Hundreds of injuries have been reported in the past three days.

Authorities ordered all cell phones temporarily shut down as the curfew took effect in the capital and other major cities. There was no official announcement of the shutdown, but cell phones stopped working about an hour before the curfew went into effect at 8 p.m. (10 a.m. EDT).

An official at the country's largest cell phone operator, GrameenPhone, said authorities had ordered all mobile networks temporarily shut down. The official asked not to be identified for fear of upsetting the military-backed interim government.

The death occurred when students from Rajshahi University, in northwestern Bangladesh, set the vice chancellor's home on fire and attacked a police checkpoint, the United News of Bangladesh agency reported.

There were competing accounts of how the unidentified man died, students charged police fatally beat him, but police said the man was killed by a stone thrown by one of the protesters.

Demonstrations have spread across the grindingly poor South Asian country in the past three days with students demanding an end to emergency rule, imposed in January when President Iajuddin Ahmed canceled scheduled elections and declared a state of emergency.

The interim government now running Bangladesh is doing so with the backing of the military, which ruled the country until throughout the 1980s.

The protests began when University of Dhaka students called for the removal of an army post from the campus. The soldiers withdrew a day later after violent protests left 150 injured, but the students' demands escalated and the protests continued.

"It seems the situation is worsening," University of Dhaka official Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Within hours of his comments, students were battling police in downtown Dhaka. Away from the clashes, students put up burning barricades on the largely deserted streets.

The government first warned in a statement Wednesday afternoon that it would "be compelled to take tough action to maintain normalcy" if there was no end to the protests, which are banned under the emergency rules.

A short while later, authorities imposed an indefinite curfew from 8 p.m. onwards in Dhaka and six other major cities.

The move was intended to "protect public life and property," said the government's legal adviser, Mainul Hosein. "We hope the measure will help restore normalcy."

Sporadic unrest has broken out across Bangladesh in the months since Ahmed canceled the elections and declared a state of emergency. His measures followed weeks of violent street protests and crippling strikes by opposition parties demanding electoral reforms.

No election date has been announced, but the Election Commission has said the polls will be held near the end of 2008.

<http://www.turkishpress.com/news.asp?id=190570>

Student violence a first major test for Dhaka government

08-22-2007, 12h10

DHAKA (AFP)



Bangladeshi students shout slogans during a demonstration at Dhaka university. Bangladesh's military-backed government, facing its first major challenge since taking office in January, has imposed an indefinite curfew after violent student clashes that left one man dead.
(AFP)

Bangladesh's military-backed government, facing its first major challenge since taking office in January, on Wednesday imposed an indefinite curfew after violent student clashes that left one man dead.

"The government has declared a curfew in six divisional cities from 8:00 pm (1400 GMT) until further notice," said Fahim Munaim, press secretary to the emergency government's leader Fakhruddin Ahmed.

The six cities affected were the capital Dhaka, northern Rajshahi and Sylhet, and southern Chittagong, Barisal and Khulna. All colleges and universities in the six cities would also be closed.

Offices and shops shut early in Dhaka as people rushed home, leaving streets already deserted before the usual rush hour time.

Bangladesh has been under a state of emergency since January, when the interim government took power following months of violence and political turmoil over vote-rigging allegations.

In a third straight day of violence on Wednesday, one bystander was killed and dozens of others suffered mostly minor injuries in a clash between rock-throwing youths and police in Rajshahi, a police official said.

Police in riot gear retaliated with tear gas.

Television channels also showed protesters armed with sticks and stones rampaging through parts of Dhaka and the southeastern city of Chittagong in defiance of a government ban on demonstrations.

The government appealed for calm, accusing troublemakers without any genuine grievances of hijacking the protests which began with demands by Dhaka University students for the army to withdraw from their campus.

The army camp was shut down early Wednesday but the decision failed to quell the sporadic clashes.

In a televised address Ahmed accused "a few evil forces of taking advantage of a trifling incident."

The government had been forced to impose the curfew but the measure was "certainly temporary," he said.

Experts had earlier voiced fears the army could go further.

"If police cannot control the situation it will mean that this government does not have a support base and by implication martial law will be inevitable," said one analyst, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A Dhaka-based commentator who asked not to be named said it would be prudent for the government to impose martial law, but that splits within the military might prevent it doing so.

"It would be wise to stabilise the situation but the problem is that the generals are not decided. There are a lot of differences of opinion," he said.

Trouble first erupted on Monday on the Dhaka University campus after several students said they had been manhandled by soldiers during a football match, according to police chief Shahidul Islam.

The students demanded that soldiers be withdrawn from the campus, where a small contingent was stationed when the state of emergency was imposed in January.

The government said Wednesday it had launched an investigation into the incident.

The interim administration took control on January 12, a day after elections scheduled for later that month were cancelled.

The government has enjoyed broad popular support after nearly two decades of misrule by corrupt politicians although there has recently been rumbling discontent among the very poor about the rising prices of essentials.

It has pledged to implement far-reaching reforms to clean up Bangladesh's notoriously corrupt politics before holding fresh polls by late 2008.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2007%5C08%5C23%5Cstory_23-8-2007_pg7_3

Thursday, August 23, 200

Curfew in Dhaka as riots spread

DHAKA: Bangladesh's army-backed interim government ordered an indefinite curfew in the capital Dhaka and five other cities from 8:00pm (1400 GMT) on Wednesday after student protests, a government spokesman said.

"All universities and the colleges of the six cities have been ordered closed for an indefinite period," Fahim Munaim told Reuters. "Students in all universities in these cities have been asked to vacate their dormitories, by 8:00pm tonight, before the curfew begins," he said. A man was killed and about 300 people were injured on Wednesday, as a student protest that began at Bangladesh's Dhaka University spread to other institutions in the city and across the country, witnesses said.

The victim, a rickshaw puller, was caught in clashes between police and students at a university in the northwestern city of Rajshahi. At least 100 students were injured, witnesses said.

Another 100 people were injured in Dhaka and at least eight vehicles were set ablaze, as riot police fired rubber bullets and teargas on violent students backed by political activists. Reuters

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/southasia/news/article_1346882.php/Uneasy_calm_in_curfew-bound_Dhaka_after_violence_in_Bangladesh

Uneasy calm in curfew-bound Dhaka after violence in Bangladesh

Aug 23, 2007, 15:54 GMT

Dhaka - An uneasy calm prevailed in the curfew-bound Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka Thursday with soldiers in armoured trucks and police in riot gear patrolling the deserted streets, officials said.

The indefinite curfew which was imposed overnight in Dhaka and six other cities by the military-backed interim government was relaxed for three hours Thursday for people to buy food and other provisions.

The curfew was imposed following massive student protests against emergency laws imposed since January.

Nearly 400 people have been injured in street battles between students and security forces since early Tuesday on a university campus in the heart of Dhaka.

The interim government issued stern warnings against the rioting students after a special cabinet meeting was held, presided over by de facto prime minister Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed.

In a nationwide address over radio and television, Ahmed called for peace from citizens and blamed the escalating violence on vested quarters who were opposed to Bangladesh's progress and well-being.

The government announced the withdrawal of all soldiers from the campus and arranged a judicial probe into the flare-up of violence across the country to meet the immediate demands of the students.

The students have called for the lifting of the seven-month old state of emergency which prohibits protests and other political activities.

The escalating violence spread to universities and colleges across the country.

Earlier reports said one person was killed in a university in the northern city of Rajshahi when police opened fire Wednesday on demonstrating students.

The violence also gripped university campuses in Chittagong, the country's main port city and in the southern industrial city of Khulna.

More than a dozen policemen were also injured in the hit and run street battles as rioting students smashed billboards and passing cars, paralysing vehicular traffic in the city.

The army camp was set up on the campus following the declaration of a state of emergency amidst rising political unrest in January.

The authorities shut down the Dhaka University, a hotbed of student violence, and ordered all students to vacate the dormitories.

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http://www.radio-canada.ca/nouvelles/International/2007/08/24/003-bangladesh_vendredi.shtml

Des professeurs d'université visés

Mise à jour le vendredi 24 août 2007 à 8 h 32

Au Bangladesh, quatre professeurs d'université ont été arrêtés par l'armée dans la foulée des émeutes qui ont secoué cette semaine plusieurs villes du pays, dont la capitale, Dacca.



Photo: AFP/STRDEL
Patrouille militaire dans les
rues de Dacca, jeudi

Ils sont soupçonnés d'avoir joué un rôle dans les affrontements entre étudiants et soldats qui ont fait un mort et des centaines de blessés entre lundi et mercredi.

Deux d'entre eux travaillent à l'Université de Dacca, où les troubles ont commencé lundi, après qu'étudiants et soldats eurent eu maille à partir lors d'un match de soccer. Les étudiants ont alors réclamé - et finalement obtenu - le départ de soldats stationnés sur le campus. Les deux autres professeurs ont été arrêtés à Rajshahi, dans le nord-ouest.

La principale association de journalistes du pays dénonce pour sa part les attaques contre la liberté de presse survenue depuis le début de la semaine. Elle soutient qu'une trentaine de journalistes ont été violemment battus par des soldats mercredi et jeudi, malgré le fait que le gouvernement ait annoncé, selon eux, que leur travail ne serait pas entravé par le couvre-feu en vigueur.

Couvre-feu temporairement levé

Entre-temps, un calme relatif continue de régner dans les principales villes du pays de 150 millions d'habitants.

Le couvre-feu d'une durée indéterminée imposé par le gouvernement de transition mercredi dans six villes, dont Dacca, a été temporairement levé dès 8 h et jusqu'à 22 h vendredi. Les commerces ont rouvert leurs portes.

Le couvre-feu décrété avait été suspendu pour une durée de trois heures la veille, afin de permettre aux gens de se déplacer et de se procurer des biens essentiels. Les universités et les collèges des six villes touchées par le couvre-feu demeurent fermés.



Photo: AFP/Adi Shah
Des émeutiers lancent des
pierres aux soldats.

Jeudi, le chef du gouvernement intérimaire, Fakhruddin Ahmed, a expliqué à la télévision que le gouvernement devait agir pour éviter « l'anarchie » et protéger la population. Le couvre-feu, a-t-il affirmé, est temporaire.

État d'urgence



Photo: AFP/Adi Shah
Des soldats s'en prenant à
un manifestant sur le
campus de l'université de

Dacca, lundi. L'état d'urgence est en vigueur depuis janvier au Bangladesh. Le gouvernement de transition, soutenu par l'armée, affirme avoir l'intention de nettoyer la vie politique de toute corruption avant de déclencher de nouvelles élections à la fin de 2008.

La décision a entraîné la suspension de tout rassemblement politique, la mainmise du gouvernement sur les médias et l'interdiction de tenir des activités politiques pour le parti nationaliste du Bangladesh et la ligue Awami, qui s'échangent le pouvoir depuis de nombreuses années.

Les chefs de ces deux partis, Khaleda Zia et cheik Hasina Wajed, font maintenant face à des accusations criminelles.

Dans l'histoire du Bangladesh, deux régimes militaires ont été renversés à la suite de soulèvements amorcés par des mouvements étudiants.

[http://www.tdg.ch/pages/home/tribune_de_geneve/l_actu/monde/detail_monde/\(contenu\)/122722](http://www.tdg.ch/pages/home/tribune_de_geneve/l_actu/monde/detail_monde/(contenu)/122722)

Au Bangladesh, des manifestants universitaires ont été arrêtés

ATS | 24 Août 2007 | 09h09

ÉMEUTES | 24/08/07 - 09h09 Deux doyens et deux enseignants d'université au Bangladesh ont été arrêtés vendredi pour leur participation présumée aux manifestations d'étudiants cette semaine qui ont poussé les autorités à imposer un couvre-feu.



©AFP | Des étudiants jettent des pierres sur les policiers à Dacca le 22 août.

Vendredi à l'aube, Harun ur Rashid, doyen de la faculté de sciences sociales, et Anwar Hossain, doyen de la faculté de biologie de l'université de Dacca, ont été interpellés par des membres des forces de sécurité, a indiqué le président de l'établissement, Yusuf Haider. Les deux universitaires avaient critiqué dans les médias l'armée et le gouvernement intérimaire bangladais.

C'est à leur université de Dacca qu'avaient éclaté lundi de violents affrontements entre étudiants et policiers. Les premiers réclamaient le départ de militaires stationnés depuis janvier sur le campus. Les soldats ont bien quitté les lieux mercredi, mais cela n'a pas suffi à apaiser la colère estudiantine.

Après les émeutes, les universités ferment

Deux autres enseignants ont été arrêtés chez eux vendredi à Rajshahi (nord-ouest), a indiqué le président de l'université municipale, Altaf Hossain. On reproche à ces deux hommes - un professeur

de physique, Saidur Rahman Khan, et Abdus Sobhan, dirigeant du syndicat des enseignants - d'avoir orchestré les troubles cette semaine qui ont fait un mort et des dizaines de blessés.

Les autorités bangladaises font face à leur plus grave crise depuis leur arrivée au pouvoir en janvier sous l'état d'urgence. Elles ont imposé mercredi un couvre-feu "illimit" dans six villes du Bangladesh, dont Dacca, mais ces mesures d'exception ont été levées pour la journée de vendredi jusqu'à 22H00 (16H00 GMT).

Les universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur sont fermés dans ces six localités que sont Dacca, Rajshahi et Sylhet, dans le nord, ainsi que Chittagong, Barisal et Khulna, dans le sud.

<http://www.romandie.com/infos/news2/070823150159.rbs10ht0.asp>

Colère d'étudiants au Bangladesh: six villes de nouveau sous couvre-feu

(©AFP / 23 août 2007 17h01)

DACCA - Le Bangladesh était de nouveau sous couvre-feu illimité jeudi soir, une mesure imposée la veille mais allégée dans la journée, les autorités cherchant à apaiser la colère des étudiants, qui a conduit à des émeutes cette semaine.

Des cars de police patrouillaient dans les rues de la capitale Dacca, demandant par haut-parleurs aux habitants de rentrer chez eux dès 20H00 (14H00 GMT), après trois heures de levée de ce couvre-feu décrété mercredi dans six villes du pays.

Les universités et établissements d'enseignement supérieur sont fermés dans ces villes que sont Dacca, Rajshahi et Sylhet, dans le nord, ainsi que Chittagong, Barisal et Khulna, dans le sud.

A Dacca, la police a établi des points de contrôle à tous les grands carrefours du centre de la métropole et l'armée patrouille dans les rues.

Mercredi soir, 57 personnes avaient été arrêtées, parmi lesquels des journalistes, dont certains ont raconté avoir été frappés par les forces de l'ordre.

Depuis 24 heures, les magasins ont leurs rideaux baissés dans le grand quartier commerçant de Dacca. Les voitures n'ont pas le droit de circuler et les cyclopoisses sont limités aux petites rues.

A l'aéroport international de la capitale, des milliers de passagers débarquant au Bangladesh sont bloqués, a expliqué un officier de police.

En imposant un couvre-feu "jusqu'à nouvel ordre", le chef du gouvernement Fakhruddin Ahmed a justifié ces mesures d'exception pour stopper ce qu'il a appelé l'"anarchie" attisée par des "forces diaboliques".

Après un mort et des dizaines de blessés cette semaine dans des heurts entre étudiants et policiers, les autorités bangladaises font face à leur plus grave crise depuis leur nomination en janvier sous l'état d'urgence.

A l'université de Dacca, les étudiants réclament depuis lundi le départ des forces de sécurité stationnées depuis janvier sur leur campus. Les soldats ont bien quitté les lieux mercredi, mais cela n'a pas suffi à apaiser la colère estudiantine.

Un gouvernement intérimaire de technocrates a pris le pouvoir le 12 janvier, avec le soutien de l'armée, après l'annulation d'élections législatives prévues dix jours plus tard. Un nouveau scrutin doit avoir lieu d'ici à la fin 2008.

<http://www.angolapress-angop.ao/noticia-f.asp?ID=555562>

Couvre-feu suspendu au Bangladesh où la vie reprend après les émeutes

Dacca, 25/08 - Les autorités du manifestations ont suspendu samedi le couvre-feu imposé mercredi dans les grandes villes où la vie reprenait son cours après les émeutes de ces derniers jours, la plus grave crise pour le gouvernement d'exception depuis sa nomination en janvier.

La foule affluait dans les marchés du pays tandis que les magasins ont rouvert et que la circulation reprenait dans les rues. De nombreuses personnes se sont dites soulagées par la fin des émeutes.

"Je ne sais rien de cette manifestation étudiante, mais je sais que je n'ai pas pu gagner d'argent pendant les trois derniers jours", a affirmé Moslem, 40 ans, qui travaille comme cyclo-pousse.

Des violents affrontements avaient éclaté lundi entre policiers et étudiants qui réclamaient le départ de militaires stationnés depuis janvier sur le campus.

Les soldats ont bien quitté les lieux mercredi, mais cela n'a pas suffi à apaiser la colère estudiantine.

Après trois jours, les autorités ont imposé un couvre-feu "illimité" pour lutter contre "l'anarchie" dans six grandes villes, dont la capitale Dacca.

<http://www.asiamedia.ucla.edu/article-southasia.asp?parentid=76713>

BANGLADESH: Chaos reported from outside Dhaka

Violence at Dhaka Univerisity results in one death; police and journalists among the injured

The Daily Star

Saturday, August 25, 2007

The countrywide chaos that erupted from Dhaka University campus on Monday further spread yesterday, leaving one person killed and several hundred injured.

Clashes triggered by the agitating people and the law enforcers took place in the capital and elsewhere in the country. Huge public and private properties were destroyed.

One killed in Rajshahi

One person was killed and around 200 including police and journalists were injured during day-long clashes yesterday between police and thousands of students in and around Rajshahi University (RU), turning the entire Motihar area into a battlefield.

Police arrested two students from the campus, one of whom is Rustom Ali, a first year student of the history department, while the other's identity could not be ascertained immediately.

Angry students damaged the vice-chancellor's (VC) residence and set fire to furniture. They also torched four vehicles on the campus including three in the VC's garage.

They barricaded Rajshahi-Dhaka highway in the morning felling trees, and set tires on fire at several points on the road stopping all vehicular movement.

Although the demonstrations had begun in protest at police attack on Dhaka University students, soon the demonstrating RU students started demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency. They also demanded removal of police from the campus.

The dead was a 35-year old rickshaw puller, Anwar, of Dasmari area near the campus.

He died instantly after being hit in the chest by a hail of rubber bullets around 12:00pm when police were entering the campus to secure the vice-chancellor's residence from the hands of angry students.

The demonstrating students later brought out a procession carrying Anwar's body.

Mahbubur Rahman, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, claimed that about 20 police personnel were injured with five of them being in critical condition. He said about 300 tear gas shells and 150 rubber bullets were fired during the clashes.

Replying to questions, he said, "The police action on the campus was taken following directives from the university administration."

The students started pouring onto the campus from their dormitories and from outside early in the morning. At 8:30am hundreds of students embarked on a peaceful march protesting the DU incidents and in support of yesterday's student strike there.

Police intercepted the march and dispersed it on the pretext of the state of emergency when it reached the administrative building parading through campus streets.

Soon after being dispersed the demonstrators regrouped again with sticks and stones in their hands and started clashing with police.

Around 9:00am, the situation worsened when police fired two tear gas shells at the students. Several hundred students started moving forward in formations pelting police with stones, and at one stage they forced the law enforcers to retreat through the main gate.

Police and students clashed for more than an hour at the main gate, where police fired a number of tear gas canisters again, while the students kept pelting them with stones. That led to about 100 students being hurt.

Five of the injured students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, and RU Medical Centre.

After an hour of fighting the police, students captured the main gate and took position on the highway. They took control of the highway at Binodpur setting fire to tires at several points.

Police took position at Kajla gate and continued fighting the students.

While a group of students kept the highway under their control, another group went to the VC's residence around 10:30am. They tried to break through the main gate of the residence and damaged the police box in front of it.

The demonstrators cut off electricity, telephone, cable TV connection, and water lines to the residence.

As newsmen were taking photos of the demonstrators at the VC's residence, the students started beating them, instigated by some Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres.

They assaulted *The Daily Star* staff correspondent Anwar Ali damaging his camera and mobile phone. As he disclosed his identity, some Shibir cadres got more enraged and started beating him again with renewed enthusiasm.

The Daily Star's RU correspondent Abu Kalam, and the daily *Prothom Alo's* Rajshahi correspondent Swaran Sarkar were also assaulted as they tried to save Anwar.

The *Prothom Alo's* photojournalist Azhar Uddin was hurt as a stone hit him on the mouth near RU Medical Centre. He was also injured in the leg from a shooting tear gas canister during the fight on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway.

Bangla Vision reporter Zahid Hasan was also injured in front of the VC's residence.

The students entered the VC's residence breaking the main gate at 12:00pm, while some senior teachers including some students' advisers were trying to calm the students.

Soon the students started pelting the teachers with stones, prompting them to take shelter on the first floor of the VC's residence.

Two teachers, Jahangir Babu and Jahangir Alam, were injured during the melee.

The students set furniture on fire on the ground floor, and as Pro-VC Prof Mamnunul Keramat approached the students, they assaulted him.

The students then went on to ransack the lounge in the residence and broke a photocopier machine, and two computers.

They also torched three vehicles out of the five in the VC's garage. Later, they declared the residence captured by them, setting fire to tires and damaging furniture in front of it.

VC Prof Dr Altaf Hossain and several senior teachers were confined on the first floor.

Following the VC's request, about a hundred riot police from four directions rushed to the residence firing rubber bullets and recaptured it from the students within 15 minutes.

The slain rickshaw puller, Anwar, and his student passenger Abir were hit by bullets as they were crossing Folklore Square when police entered the campus blazing their guns to take control of the VC's residence.

Dispersed from the VC's residence, the students regrouped again near the RU stadium.

They attacked the police camp set up at RU gymnasium, prompting police to counter attack, as the students set fire to the camp.

Police fired a large number of tear gas shells and rubber bullets to recapture the police camp as the students were throwing brickbats at the law enforcers. About 50 persons were injured in the clash.

The students demanded immediate lifting of the state of emergency, and removal of police from the campus.

They also demanded compensation for the slain rickshaw puller and ensuring of proper treatment for the injured students.

Progotishil Teachers' Society (PTS) of RU yesterday issued a statement condemning the violence on RU campus. They demanded removal of the present officials of the RU administration blaming them for the incidents.

They said the students were holding their pre-scheduled programmes peacefully, but certain fundamentalist party members got locked in clashes with police sparking the violence, the statement said without naming anyone.

The situation went out of control as police charged batons on students, and fired tear gas shells while the administration remained mum, the statement went on.

PTS leaders tried to calm the demonstrating students and police, but they failed.

The teachers went to the VC's residence and asked him to stop the police atrocity, but the administration decided not to do anything, alleged the statement.

Taking the opportunity of the volatile situation, Shibir cadres damaged rehearsal rooms of different cultural organisations in the Racsu Bhaban, the PTS statement said, where the teachers also strongly protested the assaults on journalists by the Shibir cadres.

The capital

Thousands of people including students in marauding mood burst into violence in much of the capital yesterday attacking and vandalising many government and private installations including a police box.

Police fired hundreds of rounds from shotguns and lobbed teargas shells as the demonstrators pelted stones and brickbats at them turning many city areas into virtual battlegrounds. Around 300 people including many policemen were injured.

The worst trouble spots included Gulistan, Fulbaria, Bangabazar, Raishaheb Bazar, Nayabazar, Sadarghat, English Road, Nawabpur, Mouchak, Malibagh, Kakrail crossing, Mohakhali and the areas adjoining Tejgaon College at Farmgate and Government Bangla College in Mirpur.

Demonstrators set fire to more than a dozen vehicles and damaged windowpanes of several hundred running vehicles in the areas. They also barricaded major city streets halting vehicular traffic that caused immense sufferings to commuters, particularly school children. A large number of people got stranded in wayside markets and shops.

A large number of hawkers and street urchins yesterday joined the demonstrations started by students on Monday, and they looted valuables from many wayside shops and mugged people prompting businessmen to shut down their business establishments.

Demonstrators attacked Sergeant Ahad Police Box at Gulistan at noon. In the face of the mob attack, policemen left it with their arms and other important items. The attackers vandalised furniture and took away some valuables including some files.

Old Dhaka

Several hundred students of Jagannath University took out a procession from the campus. Several hundred other demonstrators from Kabi Nazrul Islam and Suhrawardy College in the area later joined the procession.

The demonstrators, many of whom carried sticks, paraded Johnson Road and English Road without police interception. About half an hour later, they turned violent and ransacked around a dozen buses and minibuses parked near Victoria Park.

The marchers then pelted stones and brickbats at government offices including the deputy commissioner's (DC) office and Dhaka courts. They also damaged several vehicles parked on the DC's office premises and on nearby roads.

A number of people, particularly vendors, hawkers and street urchins, joined the students and went on a rampage.

At this stage, police in riot gear cracked down on the demonstrators firing shotguns, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters. They also resorted to baton charge to disperse the demonstrators, who then spread to Nayabazar, Fulbaria and Gulistan areas.

The demonstrators smashed windowpanes of many buildings housing banks, government offices and business installations on both sides of the roads from Gulistan to Sadarghat.

They entered a DESA office on English Road at around 2:00pm, brought out two pick-up vans, two motorcycles and a huge quantity of electric wire from there and set fire to those on the nearby road. A CNG-run autorickshaw was also set afire on English Road.

They also pelted stones at an office of Bangladesh Bank at Sadarghat, First Security Bank, Mercantile Bank, Eastern Bank Ltd and a Chinese hotel.

The unruly crowd also tore down electric traffic signals and traffic sheds on some roads. They also blasted home-made bombs during clashes with police.

They set fire to a BRTC bus at Fulbaria.

Meanwhile, other demonstrators set fire to a BRTC double-decker bus and a microbus at Kamlapur, two vehicles at Dhanmondi, one bus at Shankar and another near the Home Economics College.

Court proceedings suspended

All proceedings of Dhaka courts were suspended at 11:30am yesterday due to repeated attacks on those by unruly hawkers and small traders. Windowpanes of several government and private vehicles parked on the court premises were smashed.

Members of Dhaka Bar Association brought out a procession on the court premises protesting Monday's army attack on students. They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the emergency power ordinance.

The incident created panic among judges and magistrates at the courts of district and sessions judge, metropolitan sessions judge, district magistrate and chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) and lawyers and litigants.

At 12:15pm, the unruly people attacked the lower courts with sticks and bricks and damaged windows of a number of magistrates' courts. They also damaged some of windows of the judges' courts and district magistrate's court.

The mob ransacked police club, district parishad bhaban and many shops in the area.

At one stage, police swung into action to bring the situation under control. Several policemen and pedestrians were injured in the violence.

Mouchak, Malibagh

More than one hundred vehicles were vandalised and several set on fire at different points on the roads in Malibagh, Mouchak, Kakrail, Shantinagar and Purana Paltan areas as demonstrators clashed with police.

Police fired shotguns, used teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse them.

Witnesses said students of different educational institutions including Siddheswari College, Habibullah Bahar College and Abujar Giffari College brought out processions in the areas at about 10:00am. Several hundred locals joined them, chanted slogans and barricaded some roads in the areas.

The demonstrators, particularly the local people, vandalised passenger buses and other vehicles at several traffic signals in Malibagh, Mouchak and Kakrail areas.

Shops on both sides of the roads downed their shutters following the incidents.

Violence in and around DU, New Market

At least 100 students were injured in fierce clashes with the law enforcers in front of Sir AF Rahman Hall on the Dhaka University (DU) campus, Nilkhet, Palashi and New Market.

The clashes erupted at about 12:15pm.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association brought out a protest rally at around 11:30am from Aparajeyo Bangla to the Central Shaheed Minar on the campus.

As the teachers gathered at the foot of the Aparajeyo Bangla, several hundred students joined them chanting slogans.

The students, mostly the activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Bangladesh Chhatra League and some left wing student organisations, demanded immediate withdrawal of police from the campus.

After the rally, the teachers along with the students held a meeting at the Shaheed Minar and demanded lifting of the state of emergency immediate and bringing back democratic environment.

Later, the agitating students went to Nilkhet intersection where a police camp is located.

Finding police presence in the camp, the students got furious and tried to attack the police camp. Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse them.

At that time, agitators from Palashi and New Market attacked police pelting brickbats.

As the mob and the students intensified their effort, police started fired to disperse the crowd.

At one stage, the students brought petrol from the adjacent DU transport office and tried to set fire to the police camp.

Students used corrugated iron sheets to save themselves from rubber bullets as police fired blank shots.

The protestors also blocked Nilkhet-Palashi Road with big branches of trees.

Two ambulances were seen carrying wounded students frequently.

Mohakhali and Farmgate

Mohakhali and Farmgate areas turned into a battlefield as students of Government Titumir College and Tejgaon College clashed with police demanding withdrawal of the state of emergency. Small traders also joined them in the clashes.

The agitating mob pelted stones at windowpanes of Square Centre, owned by Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury, at Mohakhali Wireless Gate area at 11:30am. They also vandalised three vehicles inside the centre.

Around 400 students of Titumir College vandalised more than 20 vehicles including three cars of different media houses at Mohakhali flyover area at 10:45am.

Traffic on the road stretching from Mohakhali to Gulshan-1 remained snapped throughout the day.

Police lobbed tear gas canisters and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators injuring 15, including newsmen and police.

Tejgaon College students brought out a procession at 11:30am and vandalised several cars on the road stretching from Farmgate to Khejurbagan. Vehicular movement on the road remained snapped from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Police lobbed tear gas and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators.

Countrywide chaos

Around 200 people including students, teachers, journalists and police were injured yesterday as thousands of students at various universities and colleges across the country locked in clashes with police on the third day of violence.

In violent protests against police excesses against students of Dhaka University (DU) following Monday's clash, students all over the country ransacked structures, vandalised vehicles, and barricaded highways and roads.

Many agitating students of various educational institutions also boycotted examinations and classes.

Rail and road communications between the northern region and the rest of the country remained snapped as students of Bogra Government Azizul Haq College put up barricades on rail tracks and on Bogra-Rangpur highway, reports UNB.

Jahangirnagar University (JU)

Traffic on Dhaka-Aricha highway was interrupted for five hours as JU students blocked the highway protesting the incidents at DU.

Around 30 people including the university proctor Prof Sayed Kamrul Hasan and Superintendent of Police Matiur Rahman were injured during a demonstration staged by the students.

The JU students blockaded the highway after police dispersed a student procession brought out at 9:00am. Long queue of vehicles, stretching upto several kilometres on the highway, remained stranded during that time.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the demonstrators, triggering chase and counter-chase between the students and law enforcers. Around 50 teachers also took position on the highway, expressing their solidarity with the students' demands.

Classes and examinations were suspended as the "Students Against Harassment" enforced a student strike at JU. In the afternoon, the students brought out processions on the campus.

Chittagong University (CU)

Over 40 students, teachers and police were injured in a clash on CU campus.

Witnesses said students brought out a procession on the campus at around 9.15am in support of student strike. They vandalised a minibus and ransacked a police box on the railway station premises as well as rooms and windowpanes of Commerce Faculty and the Academic building of CU.

The situation was subdued after a half-hour-long chase and counter-chase between police and the students.

Meanwhile, Prof Jasim Uddin, proctor of CU, said the CU authorities have decided to vacate the dormitories by 6:30pm yesterday as per government instruction.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: At least 58 people including police, journalists and students of BM College, Govt Hatem Ali College and Amrita Lal Dey College were injured in clashes between students and police.

Students also ransacked a number of shops and vehicles during protests on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

At about 10:30pm on Tuesday night, students at BM College damaged 26 rooms of different departments, hostels, auditorium, canteen, college principal's residence and other buildings on the campus.

The clashes spread about two kilometres from Nathullabad to Natunbazar police checkpoint when police resorted to baton charge and fired about 50 rounds of tear gas cell and rubber bullet.

The students put up barricades on roads, set fire on tyres and damaged the motorcycle of the *Prothom Alo* correspondent, 4 shops and 8 rickshaws.

Following the pandemonium, the college academic council at an emergency meeting suspended classes till August 26.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: At least 30 people including nine police and a journalist were injured in fierce clashes between BL University College students and police at about 10:30am.

At one stage, angry students set fire to tyres at different places at Daulatpur and put up roadblocks on the Khulna-Jessore Highway from 11:00am to 2:00pm, suspending traffic movement.

Students of 14 departments of the college abstained from taking examinations in protest at police action.

Students of Azam Khan Commerce College and Majid Memorial City College also brought out processions and ransacked roadside shops.

Students at Khulna University formed human chain on the campus at about 11:00am and later brought out a silent procession in protest at police excesses on the DU students.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: At least 10 journalists were injured when some students from a silent procession swooped on them at the Sangbadik Samity office of the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU).

UNB reports: Fierce clashes between students and transport workers on Tongi-Ghorashal road near Pubail Degree College left at least 20 students injured.

Witnesses said the incident played out when angry students, who were protesting at Monday's incident on the DU campus, put barricade on the road following a rumour that a female student of the college was killed in road accident, ensuing clashes with transport workers at about 11:00am.

At one stage, they torched a bus and two motorcycles. They also damaged a number of vehicles on the road, disrupting traffic for three hours.

Sylhet staff correspondent reports: Teachers of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology (SUST) wore black badges in protest at police excesses on the DU students.

The university teachers at a rally demanded immediate withdrawal of police from all university campuses.

No classes or examinations were held at the SUST and Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) in support of countrywide student strike.

Our other district correspondents report: Students of Patuakhali Science & Technology University (PSTU), Baufal Degree College in Patuakhali, Islamic University at Kustia, students of Netrakona University College, Sirajganj University Collage, Islamia Degree Collage and Solonga Degree College in Sirajganj, Gaibandha Govt University College, DWD Degree College in Gaibandha, Carmichael College in Rangpur and Satkhira Government College and Satkhira City College and Faridpur Rajendra University College also brought out processions.

Date Posted: 8/25/2007

<http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5i9MktoGw60-DhmvkomO5bkWpVYWg>

Bangladesh army chief sees politicians behind riots

Aug 25, 2007

DHAKA (AFP) — Bangladesh's army chief has accused politicians ousted by the military-backed government of instigating riots that prompted a new security clampdown and curfew, official media said on Sunday.

The leading cities of Bangladesh, which has been under a state of emergency since January 11, were put under curfew on Wednesday following three days of rioting which spread from the capital Dhaka.

Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed blamed "a conspiracy of a quarter of corrupt and dishonest politicians to destroy the image of the government," the BSS news agency said.

The military-backed administration took charge of the country a day after the emergency was imposed and elections cancelled, following months of violence over vote-rigging allegations.

It has launched a massive anti-corruption crackdown targeted at the country's former political elite, arresting more than 150 leading politicians including a former prime minister.

It has promised to reschedule elections by late next year and Moeen "reiterated that the election will be held by December 2008," while speaking to officials in the central town of Shariatpur on Saturday, BBS said.

Head of the interim government Fakhruddin Ahmed announced the curfew on Wednesday, saying it was necessary to prevent "anarchy" after rock-throwing protesters clashed with police in the capital Dhaka and elsewhere.

The government lifted the curfew for most of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and said it would be lifted again for 18 hours on Monday.

The crackdown followed protests at Dhaka University after students were manhandled by army personnel.

Although the government quickly agreed to student demands to close a campus army post, the violence spread.

The government earlier accused politically-motivated troublemakers without any genuine grievance of hijacking the demonstrations.

Meanwhile the son of a university professor arrested for allegedly fuelling the riots said on Sunday his father had been mistreated while in custody.

Anwar Hossain, a professor of biochemistry and dean of biological sciences at Dhaka University, was among five professors arrested in Dhaka and northwestern Rajshahi.

All five were remanded for between four and 10 days by courts on Saturday, police said.

"I talked to him and he told me that he was taken to a place called the 'black hole' by military intelligence officers," Hossain's son Sanjeev told AFP.

"He looked stressed and pale (at court). He told me that the officers have interrogated him for hours and he did not have any sleep. During the interrogation, he was hit in the face and on the back," he said.

Leading Bangladesh human rights lawyer Sultana Kamal has expressed concern over the arrest of the academics.

A media body also accused law enforcers of brutal attacks on at least 30 journalists during the curfew.

US-based Human Rights Watch on Friday urged the government to "respect international human rights standards" as it enforced the curfew and policed demonstrations.

Protests and party political activity have been banned since the emergency was imposed.

<http://www.thedailystar.net/story.php?nid=3494>

DU incident and aftermath

Syed Munir Khasru

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 02:56 AM GMT+06:00



The entire nation saw the chain of events from August 19-22, where a simple quarrel in a football field led to widespread street violence and anarchy and ultimately imposition of curfew. What actually happened in the field, I don't know, but let's assume that the members of the armed forces were at fault. What happened next?

The students and teachers demanded that the army camp be withdrawn from the DU gymnasium and the government apologise for the incident. Like many, including retired army officers who wrote articles in different newspapers on this issue and serving army officers speaking in private, I also believe that the army camp should not have been set up within the DU campus in the first place.

However, the government and the armed forces did respond quickly to the demands -- army camp was withdrawn from the DU campus and regrets were expressed. The thing should have ended then and there. But what did we see?

We saw riot, vandalism, army vehicle being set on fire, and so on and so forth. I don't know who these trouble mongers were -- whether they were ordinary students, or political students, or political activists, or hired goons, or evicted hawkers, or discontented citizens or ill-motivated usurpers. Among the different theories floating around, I have no data or intelligence to confidently state who these people were who fomented the unrest.

However, there seems to be a broad consensus that the incidents that spiraled out of control and spread like a bushfire even after the dispute was settled had to do with people and motives who hardly had any relation with the gymnasium incident. Even some office-bearers of the Dhaka University Teachers' Association started distancing themselves from these incidents through public statements.

Bottom line is that I don't think that anybody, including the government and the armed forces, believes that the vast majority of students and teachers of DU were in any way involved with the untoward incidents that took place within and beyond the DU campus after the gymnasium issue was resolved. Whether actually some teachers of DU were involved in inciting and supporting the street violence -- I personally am not in a position to make a definitive statement.

However, the analysis of incidents and subsequent statements do indicate that there was involvement. The issue is to what degree and in what manner were the teachers involved and that probably is one of the major tasks of the investigation commission to determine. It won't be wise to make comments on a sub-judicial matter that is still in process. Let's hope that truth shall surface to put to rest the speculations that have been swirling around for a while.

What has been so disheartening and depressing is the issuance of a blanket statement by the general secretary of DUTA, which begs forgiveness "on behalf of the DUTA and as the parent of all students of DU."

The question is whether every teacher and student of DU was either involved in or supportive of the unfortunate chain of events that happened after apparently the gymnasium problem seemed to have been resolved. If that is not the case, then is it fair to speak in a manner that drags people into incidents with which they may have nothing to do, other than being silent spectators or concerned teachers or students?

If anyone personally believes that he/she has done things for which he/she should beg forgiveness -- he/she is free to do that and take responsibility for his/her acts. Dragging everyone into the net that belittles the entire community of teachers and students of DU in front of the nation is not something anybody relishes and certainly not the act of a responsible leader.

As stated already, we still don't know for certain to what extent the two DU teachers were involved in the civil disturbance that erupted in the streets of Dhaka and in other places. Nor do we know under what circumstances the general secretary made his statement. However, common sense dictates that it is not a good idea to have someone make public statement in the court premises while being surrounded by platoons of police and it hardly helps the cause of credibility.

The teaching community at DU does expect that teachers be treated by the law enforcers with propriety. Nobody wants that what is being told today is contradicted in the future under different circumstances. Let us call spade a spade and trust the words of the general secretary who claims to be speaking from the "bottom of his heart."

Armed forces are one of the most trusted and respected institutions of the country on whom we depend for protecting our sovereignty. They always have stood by the nation in times of all kinds of crisis -- war, natural calamities, disaster management, electoral process, and so on and so forth.

The scene of an army personnel being chased by anybody, let alone students, can never evoke good feelings in the mind of any conscientious citizen as members of the armed forces are people in whom we have put our faith to uphold the independence of the country. In one of my classes at the MBA program of IBA, I have students from the armed forces who expressed to me the sense of shock they felt to see people in uniform being chased by students on the DU campus.

It has hurt their sense of self-respect and pride which is perfectly understandable. I heard the same feelings from my friends, relatives, and well-wishers in the armed forces who felt betrayed by these irresponsible acts, particularly after the camp was withdrawn and regrets were expressed. Many of us do empathise with the hurt that has been caused to our students, friends, and other members serving in the armed forces.

An attack on an army personnel is an attack on our national pride and no debate about it. As far as many of us are concerned it is the duty of any teacher to restrain students, who are expected to be emotional and not fully mature, if the students in their zeal start committing excesses and improper acts.

Hence, if these DU teachers believe that they have failed to perform their responsibilities or have done things for which they owe an apology they have done the right thing by apologising.

What is unacceptable is the collective approach in statements implicating the entire teaching

community and students of DU in these undesired acts. This is not true. There are many teachers and students who were quite upset by the way things got out of control from a rather minor incident in a football field. The majority in the DU community were distressed by both the high-handed tactics of the law enforcers as well as the unacceptable gestures made towards members of the armed forces as it appeared in the newspaper.

It is indeed a sad day for the nation, when in front of the students and their parents, teachers end up with an image of being irresponsible professionals begging forgiveness in public for their acts and then claiming to be the "moral guardian of the students."

Already many of us while attending social events have to put up with caustic remarks for the position we teachers have been put into. Does every teacher and student of DU deserve this? Should everyone be put into the same bracket? Does everyone have to put his/her head down for events which they did not support or took part in? Should the professional integrity of all be put into question for deeds of few, whatever they may have been?

Both the army, as represented by its officers and soldiers, and DU, as represented by the teachers and students, have a glorious history, tradition, and pride. These are the two most revered institutions of the country who have led the country in challenging times by playing pivotal roles from their respective positions.

From the war of liberation to strengthening democracy, each have played glorious roles in respective areas, including sacrificing lives for the country. If anyone had indeed done things to deliberately put these two institutes into a confrontational path by their words and deeds -- they owe an apology not only to the armed forces but also to the entire nation for their singular acts. It is not fair to put all in the same bracket since majority of us had nothing to do with such irresponsible acts.

A large portion of members of the armed forces and law enforcers are graduates of DU and nobody savours the scene of their alma mater being belittled in any way. In one of my own classes at IBA, about 12% of the students are serving officers of the armed forces. When the statement of the DUTA general secretary was being broadcast in the TV channels, I received calls from my friends and relatives in the armed forces who were no less distressed than us in seeing the plight of the respected seat of learning of the country.

If it is of any consequence, to my knowledge -- the chief advisor, the chief of army, and the inspector general of police -- all are graduates of DU and they had spent memorable years of their lives in the same campus whose image is now being harmed. Hence, there is no reason to believe that they have felt any less disheartened and embarrassed by the unfolding of events in DU as did we. So who is scoring points here? Nobody.

From Nobel Laureate Professor Yunus to the intellectual martyrs during the war of liberation -- the history of DU in unleashing talent to performing acts of patriotism is second to none. From public services to private enterprises, from politics to culture, from scientific achievements to artistic works -- the alumni of DU continue to make an impact in different spheres of lives and have enriched the country through their intelligence, commitment, creativity, and patriotism. It is unwise to cast a shadow on such a prodigious institution for acts of few which are devoid of any collective endorsement from the larger community of teachers and students of DU.

Let me conclude with a positive note with a bit of optimism for the future. As all concerned are exploring possibilities to reopen the universities, a few measures are humbly suggested which will hopefully restore confidence paving the way for return of normalcy to the campus and beyond.

Since the gymnasium was the starting point of trouble and for the time being has a negative symbolic value, it is a good idea if as a goodwill gesture the government modernises the existing facilities at the gymnasium which have become obsolete due to lack of maintenance and inability of DU to replace old unusable equipment for financial constraints.

Secondly, one of the long standing complains of the students of the dormitories of DU has been the poor quality of food that is being regularly served to them. By providing this incremental food allocation, the government can ensure that students have access to decent meal at affordable prices and under hygienic conditions. This may remove the grievances all students have some of whom who were unnecessarily harassed by the law enforcers during this crisis.

Thirdly, some of the contents in the website of Bangladesh army related to this incident gives the impression of entire DU community being involved in this violence, it should be corrected as such wrong information does not help anybody. The confidence building measures are necessary to inject normalcy and to remove the prevailing negativism.

Last and not least, let the curtain fall on this rather unfortunate incident between the two most powerful institutions of the country, which are symbols of national pride and have played complementary roles in times of national crisis. The country needs more understanding and respect and less distrust and unease between these two institutions. Let's work towards that end and let sanity prevail in all quarters.

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