

Two journalists, five cops among 13 injured as JnU students, police clash

Police used batons after a dispute over an alleged theft escalated in Old Dhaka

5 HOUR(S) AGO UPDATED 20 MIN(S) AGO CAMPUS

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JnU Correspondent

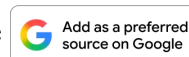


Photo: Collected

At least 13 people, including two journalists and five police personnel, were injured during an alleged clash between police and students of Jagannath University (JnU) at the Murgitola intersection in Old Dhaka early today.

The injured journalists are Limon Islam, JnU correspondent for Amar Desh and general secretary of the Jagannath University Press Club, and Apurba Roy, university correspondent for Dainik Somoy.

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Mir Muhsin Masud, assistant deputy commissioner of police for the Demra division, said the trouble began around 1:00am following the alleged theft of a pair of shoes from the Murgitola residence of Ashraful Islam, a 19th-batch student of the Department of Law and Land Administration.



Photo: Collected

According to students and eyewitnesses, a local man identified as Michael was seen in CCTV footage and was later detained by several students.

They alleged that local residents subsequently gathered, freed Michael, and assaulted the students.

Following the incident, several hundred students went to the area in search of the alleged attackers. The suspects later took shelter inside a nearby house, which the students surrounded, they said.

When police reached the scene, they escorted the "attackers" out of the house. Students allegedly tried to prevent police from taking Michael away, triggering a confrontation between the two sides.

Police then charged with batons to disperse the crowd, leaving at least eight people injured.

Journalist Limon said he was taking photos and videos when a police officer struck him with a baton, injuring his mouth and other parts of his body.

Azharul alleged that he was standing peacefully when police suddenly charged at the students. He said he suffered a head injury that required three stitches.

JnU Proctor Prof Nasir Uddin said he had been informed of the incident and that the university would discuss the matter with senior police officials.

In protest against the baton charge, students blocked the Murgitola intersection for an hour from around 2:30am, disrupting traffic in the area.

Mir Muhsin Masud said police later detained Michael and one Ashikur Rahman Ashik.

“We rescued the main accused from an angry crowd and were taking him away when some students tried to snatch him from police custody. Police had to resort to a baton charge to bring the situation under control. Five police personnel were also injured in the incident,” he said.

He added that those found involved in the incident would face legal action following an investigation.