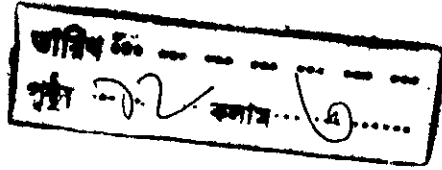


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BCL factions clash at DU: 7 injured

DU CORRESPONDENT

Gunshots and bomb explosions rocked Salimullah Hall of Dhaka University yesterday morning when two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) fought for establishing dominance over the hall, leaving seven activists injured.

Four of the injured were admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital, one of them with injury in spinal cord.

The rest were admitted at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Dhaka Dental College Hospital, source said.

At least 35 shots were fired and 10 crackers blasted during the clash, creating a panic among students, most of whom were asleep.

Campus sources said, about 30 activists of Shariatpur-Madaripur faction of BCL attacked the hall at around 5:30 am to oust the Bagerhat faction, which had established its dominance in the hall few months back.

The attackers included BCL president of Zahurul Haq Hall unit Mainuddin Ahmed Babu, its general secretary at Salimullah Hall Rashedul Bashir Dollar, Galib, Ehsan, Hafiz, Mahfuz and Mithu. Some of the attackers wore masks during their "operation". They entered the hall by scaling its jackside wall, using a ladder.

Babu and Dollar were expelled from the university earlier for terrorist activities, the sources said.

When the attackers started firing shots and blasting crackers, their rivals

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also fired shots and tried to resist them.

After about half an hour's gunfight, the Shariatpur-Madaripur faction ousted the Bagerhat group from the hall and also beat the fleeing activists with iron rods and hockeysticks, witnesses said.

They also ransacked two rooms 139 and 140 of the hall.

Those admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital are Emon, Manik, Swapan, and Bahaul. Emon and Swapan were thrown from the first floor after beating. Emon was admitted with injury in the spinal cord, the sources said. All the injured belonged to the Bagerhat faction.

Soon after the incident, police raided the hall at around 7:00 am, arrested four BCL activists and recovered 16 bullets from room No. 15 and three sharp weapons from the corridor of the hall.

The arrested are Galib, a student of Management Department, Jewel of Bangla, Jitu of History and Rana of Islamic History.

No case was lodged in this connection till filing of this report last