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Big blast in DU Nutrition Instt

Staff Correspondent

A big explosion in the gas line at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Sciences in the Dhaka University areas on Sunday left five persons including a girl student injured seriously and caused damage to the windowpanes and several rooms of the four-storey building. Of the injured persons, two are students. They were identified as Mr. Arefin Shamsu and Nasima and the three others are an engineer Mokbul Hossain (50), Mr. Gofran Ali Bhuiya (45), a senior laboratory technician, and Mr. Mohammad Ali (35), a plumber of the Institute.

According to some eye-witnesses, the incident took place at 12:45 p.m. when some workmen were repairing a gas line in the laboratory. With a big

bang, a portion of the gas line exploded causing injuries to five persons and damage to the building.

Both the students injured in the incident were sitting on the floor near the laboratory. All the injured persons were immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from where Nazima was taken to Combined Military Hospital. Her father is a retired Army officer.

The powerful explosion shook the entire campus and people present there became panicky.

The cause of explosion could not be ascertained immediately.

UNB adds: Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Maniruzzaman Mia visited the spot soon after the blast.

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Big blast

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Meanwhile, The Dhaka University authorities formed a six-member inquiry Committee headed by Pro-VC Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed to probe Sunday's explosion at the Institute of Nutrition and Food Science, DU officials said.

Other members of the Committee are: Prof. Aminul Islam, Dean of the Science Faculty, Prof. S M A Fayed, a Syndicate Member, Dr. Keramat Ali, Director of the Institute of Nutrition, Prof. Yeazuddin Ahmed, President of DU Teachers' Association, Mohammad Selim, President of DU Officers' Association and A.K. Barua, DU Chief Engineer.

The University authorities have also requested the Home Ministry for an explosion expert to help conduct the inquiry, the officials added.