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17 rooms of two Halls ransacked

Students clash in DU: 10 hurt

By Our Varsity Correspondent

At least 10 students were injured following an armed clash between two rival groups of students of Dhaka University on Friday. Of the injured one was admitted to DMCH.

The Dhaka University Syndicate in a meeting held in the afternoon decided to close down the University sine die after the clash and asked the students to vacate the residential halls by 10 a.m. today (Saturday). The decision was disclosed to newsmen by the University authority in the evening. But later at 10.30 p.m. the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University told this correspondent that the decision to close down the university was changed and the authority would wait for another day to observe the situation.

The clash began on Thursday-Friday night when armed members allegedly belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal suddenly attacked the pro-JSD (Inu) students simultaneously in Mohsin and Surya Sen Halls. The Chhatra Dal members were armed with automatic weapons including rifle, light machine gun (LMG), cut rifle and sten gun. Following the attack by the JCD, the pro-JSD students fled the halls and took shelter at the

residence of the Vice-chancellor and spent the night there. The clash resumed again at 12 noon on Friday when the Dhaka University Education Environment Council was in a meeting to review the situation. The Chhatra Dal attacked the residence of the Vice-Chancellor with automatic weapons where the pro-JSD students were waiting.

The pro-JSD students countered the attack with pistols and sten guns. The clash continued till 1 p.m. As the Chhatra Dal workers used heavy weapons, the pro-JSD

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Students clash

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students retreated. At least 10 students received bullet and stab injuries, two of them seriously following the overnight clash. Six motor cycles were set ablaze and 17 rooms of Mohsin and Surya Sen Halls belonging to pro-JSD students were ransacked. Articles of the rooms were strewn by the ransacking students.

Amid continuous gunshots, the Dhaka University cancelled the meeting of the Environment Council and called the Syndicate meeting at 4 p.m.

Riot police was called in and deployed in front of the residence of the Vice-Chancellor at 1 p.m. It was later withdrawn and posted in different entry points of the campus.

A tense situation has been prevailing on the campus. The last papers of the Masters degree examination which was scheduled on Saturday (today) has now become uncertain. The Honours final examinations of the University which were to begin from Saturday were also thrown into uncertainty. These two examinations were supposed to be completed two years back.

The pro-JSD students in a hurriedly called Press conference at its office after the clash, termed the attack on them as a pre-determined conspiracy to sabotage the future students movement. The student leaders alleged that the JCD workers were supported by the Government which supplied them arms. They demanded expulsion of seven students from the University. The students were identified as Niru, Ratan, Ovie, Malek and Shafiq of Mohsin Hall, Shahid and Mahbub of Surya Sen Hall. These students, they alleged were responsible for armed hooliganism and road robberies and hijacking on the campus. They demanded due compensation to the affected students and punishment to those responsible for it.

Meanwhile, 22 student organisations held a joint meeting at the office of the Jatiya Chhatra Oikya at Topkhana Road. A leader of a student organisation told this correspondent, that a joint action would be taken against the armed hooliganism on the campus and would resist them.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: six injured and 50 students all belonging to Chhatra League (pro-JSD) took shelter at the hostels of Dhaka Medical College in the