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One killed in DU gunbattle

Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and 10 others were injured four of them seriously, in a cross-fire between the two groups of students on the Dhaka University campus on Sunday noon.

The victim, aged about 45, could not be identified immediately after the incident. He was sitting under a Krishnachura tree near Surjasen Hall, according to eye-witnesses.

He died on the spot and was lying under the tree for about half an hour before being removed by some people to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Of the seriously injured students, three were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and another to the Institute for Diseases of Chest and Hospital.

The injured Mohammad Ali Hossain, a student of MA-Preliminary class of History Department, received bullet injury in his head. Zahidur Rahman, a student of 2nd year (honours) of Physics Department, received bullet injury in his chest, and Asaduzzaman Chapal, a student of 2nd year (honours) of Statistics Department, received bullet wound in his leg.

Other injured persons were released after first aid from the different private clinics and hospitals. At least 15 students received injuries while they were running helter-

skelter for safety, during the gun-battle.

Both warring factions exchanged about two hundred rounds of bullet shots during the gun-battle which



started at about 1:10 p.m. and lasted till 2:30 p.m.

Police posted in front of Vice-Chancellor's residence, different halls and campus remained silent

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during the hour-long clash barring firing only ten rounds of rubber bullets and lobbing 25 rounds of teargas shells.

It was suspected that the clash was a sequel to the killing of a JCD leader at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute. Shahabuddin (22), a second year student of Mechanical Engineering Department, was shot dead inside his hostel room in the early hours of Saturday.

To mourn the death of Shahabuddin, Said-Sohrab group of JCD held a rally in front of the DUCSU building on Sunday noon. When the rally was going on, Mr. Abdul Malek, Organising Secretary of JCD Central Committee came to attend the rally. An altercation began between Malek and supporters of Said-Sohrab group over his presence.

It was learnt that some supporters reportedly equipped with fire arms proceeded towards Madhu's canteen from Bangabandhu and Jasimuddin Halls and took position at the canteen during the altercation. Having received the information of the group's taking position inside the canteen, another group of armed activists, from Mohsin and Surjasen Halls took position inside the Arts Faculty building.

contingents of police were present on the Dhaka University campus.

The statement called upon the Government to be sincere in establishing peace on the campus, curbing terrorism and recovering weapons. The statement also demanded immediate arrest of terrorists and recovery of arms from the campus.

Both the armed groups became involved in clash. At one stage one group retreated to Jasimuddin and Bangabandhu Halls from where they continued firing. Another group later went back to Surjasen and Mohsin Halls from where they encountered them. The armed clash caused about forty minutes delay in holding of honours and masters final examinations scheduled to begin on Sunday at 2.00 p.m. Later, the examinations were held peacefully. But the examinees were in apprehension of further escalation of the clash during their examination hours.

Shortly after the clash police raided Surjasen and Jasimuddin Halls but failed to recover any arms and ammunition and could not arrest any one in this connection.

Police closed different roads leading to the Dhaka University campus to traffic during the gun-battle. The clash spread tension among the insiders of the DU campus as well as people adjoining areas like Shahabag, Nilkhet, Palashi, Azimpur, Chankharpul and Elephant Road.

UNB adds, another group of armed youths, allegedly belonging to Chhatri League Gopalganj group, started rampaging in proctor's office area.

Five rounds of gunshot were fired there at about 12 noon, but the eruption was silenced by the rattles of guns in the other camp.

Despite the gunfight, Honours and Masters final examinations were held uninterrupted, but behind the schedule. MA and MSS examinations started at 2 instead of 1.30 pm with tight police guard.

Tension was prevailing in the entire campus as militants returned to their respective sanctuaries after police raids. Police patrols were reinforced on the campus.

On Saturday, the DU authorities vented apprehension about such eruptions.

Killing condemned

Meanwhile, different organisations issued separate statements on Sunday expressing their grave concern over the killing on the DU campus and condemned the incident.

DUTA

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) condemned the incident in which one person was killed and several others were injured. The statement said that a violent clash occurred between sub-groups of an student organisation on Sunday noon.

The statement said hundreds of rounds of bullet were fired and bombs were blasted during the hour-long armed clash although several