

2-hour gunfight between BCL, JCD

workers on DU campus

Two JCD students killed

By Our DU Correspondent

Two students were killed and at least 20 others injured, three of them seriously, in a two-hour pitched gunfight between the supporters of Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) and Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) students front of ruling BNP on the Dhaka University campus Sunday.

The deceased were identified as Shafiqul Islam Liton, a third year Honours student of International Relations Department and resident of Surya Sen Hall and Mirza Galibur Rahman, reportedly a former student of Dhaka College residing at Mohsin Hall, one of the dormitories of the university. Both were supporters of JCD, it was claimed.

Of the injured persons, 12 with bullet wounds were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, PG Hospital and Pangu Hospital.

The clash ensued at about 12:45 p.m. when a group of BCL (A-A) activists led by Nirmal, who was elected a DUCSU member

from JCD and joined BCL recently, tried to enter the DUCSU building forcibly.

DUCSU BLDG

The DUCSU leaders who had been staying inside, immediately closed the main entrance to DUCSU building in self defence.

The BCL activists kept JCD and DUCSU leaders in confinement at DUCSU building till 1 p.m.

Activists of JCD from different residential halls rushed to the Arts Building and IBA building premises and chased the BCL activists. Sounds of sporadic gun shots were heard from both the sides during the chase and counter chase since 1 p.m.

The BCL activists took position inside Rokeya Hall and TSC areas while their counter part JCD took position at the university main library and Language Institute premises.

The fight continued for about two hours till 3:15 p.m.

Galibur Rahman was shot at on his chest and died on the spot near the Institute of Modern Languages at about 2:15 p.m.

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Two JCD students killed

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Shafiqul Islam Liton was shot in the belly at about 2:30 p.m. when trying to rescue his fellow activist Galib at the same venue.

The injured persons are: Gazi Mohammad Shafiqul Azam, M.A. Final Year student and resident of Mohsin Hall, Jafar Sadek Biplob, first year, Marketing and resident of S M Hall, Shafiqul Alam Shafiq, Master Final Year, Management and resident of Suryasen Hall, Mizanur Rahman, third year, Geography and resident of Fazlul Huq Hall and supporters of JCD-Anisur Rahman, Hedayetullah, Nipu, resident of Surya Sen Hall, Shafiqul Azam, Mizanur Rahman, garments employee Moktar Ali street urchin Khokon and another unidentified street urchin.

Biplob and Shafiqul Azam were shifted to Pangu Hospital from DMCH. Condition of Mizanur Rahman and two street urchins were stated to be critical at DMCH.

At one stage the JCD activists entered the Language Institute building by breaking the wall and rescued the bodies of the victims.

It is estimated that over one

thousand rounds of gun shots were fired during the clashes. The campus residents and passersby ran helter skelter for shelter during the incident.

Police did not intervene the fighting of the student organisations. However, they urged the armed activists of both the groups to cease-fire over loud speakers.

All the injured persons were rushed to different city hospitals and clinics.

JCD brought out a procession carrying the two bodies and converged at the Jatiya Press Club where they organised a rally.

The rally was addressed by DUCSU GS Khokon, member, Rasiqul Islam Jaglu, central JCD leaders Ilias Ali, Habibunnabi Sohel, Ali Akkas Nadim and Mir Sharafat Ali Sapu.

They blamed the pro-Awami League Chhatra League for the "brutal killings" and campus violence.

The speakers alleged that the killers of Dr. Milon led the attack. "Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will have to bear the responsibility of the killings as she had given sanctuary to the killers in her party's student wing."

Khokon said.

They also blamed the law enforcing agencies for their reluctance to act and said the role of police was "mysterious".

During the clash, thousands of students, teachers and employees were stranded in the Arts Faculty building. The Language Institute building wall and windowpanes were smashed by bullet.

Police later raided ten residential halls, arrested four persons and recovered four abandoned pipe guns from Jagannath Hall premises.

The halls were: SM. Hall, Zahirul Huq Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Mohsin Hall, Jagannath Hall, Rokeya Hall, Jashim Uddin Hall, Mujib Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall.

Huge paramilitary, BDR and riot police have been deployed in the tense campus areas.

Following the bloody clashes, curfew was clamped on the campus for an indefinite period at 4:30 p.m. Police and BDR sealed all the entry points in order to nab the holders of unauthorised fire arms and recover the weapons.

Combing operation carried out till 9:30 p.m. Police searched 10 dormitories, arrested four persons

and recovered some quantity of arms and ammunition.

All examinations scheduled to be held today (Monday) have been postponed by the university authority. Fresh dates would be announced later.

Different socio-political and student organisations Sunday condemned the bloody clashes on Dhaka University campus Sunday.

The organisations, in separate statements, called upon both the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament not to provide shelter to the holders of unauthorised fire arms.

They also demanded exemplary punishment of the persons responsible for Sunday's incidents.

The organisations included National Democratic Party, Jatiya Ganatantrik Party, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan, Swadhin Sangbadpatra Pathol Samity, Bangladesh Chhatra Union, Chhatra League (N-S), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, Bangladesh Swadhin Chhatra Parishad, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, and Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Majlis.