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Gunbattle on campus

2 DU students shot dead

By A Staff Reporter

Two Dhaka University students were shot dead on DU campus Friday morning. Ashraful Alam Momin, a honours final year examinee was shot and killed at room number 265 of Surya Sen Hall by a rival faction of a student organisation. The second victim Mahmud Hasan, second year honours (Islamic History) student was fatally injured in a fierce gunbattle between rival factions of the same student organisation.

According to residents of two DU halls, a faction of the student organisation entered Surya Sen Hall at about 3.15

a.m. Friday and gunned down Ashraful Alam and shot his room mate Junaid in the leg. Junaid jumped from the first floor of the hall and fled away to take shelter in Mohsin Hall.

The raiders then dumped the body of Ashraf in an underground water tank of Surya Sen Hall.

Following the incident, two rival factions of the student organisation, alleged to be Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, locked themselves in a 75-minute fierce gunbattle. Supporters of two factions, positioned themselves in their two strongholds - Mohsin Hall and Surya Sen

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2 DU students

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Hall traded at least 500 rounds of gun shots between 5 a.m. to 6.15 a.m. Mahmud Hasan was shot in the abdomen while he tried to flee away alongwith his comrades by scaling the wall of Sheikh Mujib Hall. He was taken by his friends to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. Junaid was transferred to Chest Disease Hospital from DMCH.

University employees recovered the body of Ashraf from the under ground water tank in presence of police at about 8 a.m. The police, following the incident, raided Sheikh Mujib Hall but found nothing. It may be mentioned that only four days back two rival factions of JCID fought a fierce gunbattle in which one unidentified person was killed and four students were seriously injured.

It was reported in the press that two factions at the directive of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, got themselves united to bring out a procession on DU campus against terrorism. But that unity apparently did not last long.

DUTA CONDEMNS

INCIDENT

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) in an emergency meeting, held with its President Dr. S.M.A. Fayaz in the chair, strongly condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment for the killers. The DUTA said presence of armed outsiders in student dormitories, open supply and use of deadly fire arms, indifference on the part of police administration and helplessness of the DU authorities had created an unbearable situation on Dhaka University campus putting the life and property of students, teachers, employees at stake.

It alleged that there were practical example that the law enforcing agencies were not at all serious about the recovery of arms. Rather, DUTA alleged, terrorists, where applicable, get subtle support and cooperation from them. It demanded immediate steps from the university administration and the government to ensure security and safety of the students, teachers and employees.

two lives exposed a worsening situation on the campus.

Khan blamed the government for its indifference to curb the campus violence and demanded immediate arrest of troublemakers to restore a congenial academic atmosphere.

The Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-1) and Democratic Student Centre in separate statements Friday night condemned the factional fight among the pro-government student organisation and demanded arrest and punishment of the persons responsible for the killing of two students.

Leaders of the left-leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) in a press conference at the National Press Club Friday afternoon accused the government of patronising terrorism on the campus. They said 28000 students of Dhaka University were now living in complete insecurity. GCO will hold a rally at the foot of the Aparajeya Bangla of DU to protest Friday's violent incident.