

# One killed in DU gunbattle

Staff Correspondent

An anti-terrorism activist was killed in a crossfire between the members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL, A-A), on the Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The fighting between the students wings of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the opposition Awami League erupted near the Dhaka University Snacks (DUS) at about half past five in the afternoon. It was at that time the Democratic Student Alliance, a combine of left-leaning student groups, brought out a peace

procession there. One of the processionist, Mohibuddin Raju, was hit by a bullet and died on the spot.

Police had to lob several teargas shells to bring the situation.

Raju was a third year student of Soil Science department of the Dhaka University and a resident of Shahidullah Hall. He was Social Welfare Secretary of Chhatra Union, Dhaka University unit and member of central committee of the organisation.

The clash ensued when a group of Chhatra League members abused JCD members who were gossiping behind the Dhaka University Snacks (DUS), at about 5:30 pm. The situation instantly took serious turn and both the groups started opening fire towards each other. The BCL members, then, were in front of DUS. Indiscriminate gunfire rocked the campus and general students were seen running helter skelter.

Police personnel who were posted near TSC compound opened teargas shells to disperse the battling groups. Eyewitnesses said police only fired tear gas shells towards the BCL members. They were inactive about the JCD members who were lobbing gun shots from the shelter of police. The BCL members immediately took position near Shamsunnahar Hall for cover.

JCD activists were seen opening shots from the inside DUS and BCL members were replying from the road in front of Shamsunnahar Hall. In the meantime, a member of

Democratic Students alliance, a combine of the left-leaning student organisation went to policemen and protested their silence in taking actions against the warring groups. But, a police officer became angry and misbehaved with him. The DSA member left the place and told the incident to his colleagues who were inside the TSC.

The DSA immediately brought out a procession protesting the terrorism and police role in containing it.

The BCL members also brought out another procession from Shamsunnahar Hall area. The JCD members were then took possession of the Central Library area.

The DSA procession which was some yards ahead of the BCL procession came under attack of the gun fire from Library area. A bullet hit on the head of Raju near the DUS at about 6:15 pm.

After the incident, both the warring groups left the area and some colleagues of the victim removed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at about 7:20 pm.

Our DU Correspondent said the BCL and the JCD also exchanged gunshots from Zahirul Huq Hall and Mohsin Hall respectively in the evening.

Over one hundred rounds of gunshots were fired during the battle.

The victim, Raju was the second among three children of his parents. His father Moazzem Hossain is a retired Assistant

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Director of Geo-Physical Laboratory. He along with his family member would reside at Shyamoli. The village home of Raju is at Mehendiganj in Barisal.

Hearing the news, the parents of Raju rushed to DMCH. His body was kept at DMCH till filing this reports, at 10 pm.

Following the incident police sealed off all entry points to the university for vehicles. A tense situation was prevailing on the campus.

### Press conference

The Democratic Students Alliance at a hurriedly called press conference at the Jatiya Press Club categorically accused JCD of killing Raju. The DSA leaders blamed BCL and JCD for patronising terrorism in the educational institutions. The terrorists always keep understanding among them irrespective of party affiliations, they added.

They said they were struggling for making campuses free from

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violence. But government was not taking any step in this regard.

Turning to yesterday's incident, they said Raju was killed when the JCD members opened fire towards their procession. They were also critical of police role terming it mysterious and doubtful. They demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

The press conference was addressed among others by Chhatra Union president Nasir-ud-Doza, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Belal Chowdhury, Chhatra Maitree's Nur Ahmed Bakul and Chhatra League (N-S) General Secretary Shafi Ahmed. Prior to the press conference, DSA also held a rally in front of the Press Club.

The DSA members also set ablaze a microbus near Chankharpool and damaged several other in and around the campus.

The DSA will bring out a mourning procession today (Saturday) in protest against the killing of Raju.