

61 students killed in DU since '74

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With the death of Partho on Thursday a total of 61 students have been killed on Dhaka University campus in 27 years since the independence of the country. In addition to these losses of human lives, two cows were also killed this highest seat of learning of the country during the period.

All those killing occurred due to turmoils on the campus, mainly fierce gunbattles between rival group of students and sometimes internal conflicts of major students organisation.

After our independence the brutal killings on Dhaka University campus started on April 4 in 1974 with sensational "Seven-Murder" Mohsin Hall. And that was the first killings in students politics on the campus.

After this "Seven-Murder" incident four students — Inu, Goga, Thuku and Rintu were killed on DU campus in 1977 during the Martial Law regime of General Ziaur Rahman. Another student Liakat was killed in 1978. These five killings on the campus were the sequel to internal conflicts of Bangladesh Chhatra League. Besides, many clashes between BCL (JSD) and BCL (AL) occurred on DU campus during mid-70's which left many student injured. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) did not come into being then.

Another youth was killed in 1980, two were in 1982 and one was in 1983 at Mohsin Hall.

In 1985 during anti-Ershad movement JSD Chhatra League leader Roufun Basunia was killed by the armed cadres of the then Jatiya Chhatra Samaj, student wing of Ershad's Jatiya Party. Bangladesh Chhatra Union leader Aslam was killed in 1986. Six persons were killed in 1987 and they were Bablu, Moinuddin, Nur Mohammad and Halim of JCD, Munna of JSD Chhatra League and one rickshawpuller Abdur Rahim.

JCD central leader Bazlur Rahman Shahid alias "Pagla Shahid" was shot dead at Surja Sen Hall in 1988 due to internal conflicts of JCD. In 1989 Chhatra League (JSD) leader Kafiluddin Kanak and meritorious student Arif were killed on the campus. It was followed by the killings of Chhatra League leader Chunnu, Nemai and Dr Shamsul Alam Milon in 1990 during the turbulent period of anti-Ershad movement.

Six persons were killed in 1991 on DU campus and they are Alamgir Kabir of JSD Chhatra League, Mahbubur Rahnan of JCD, Mirza Masud Galib, Liton and Mizan of

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Awami Chhatra League and one unidentified outsider. In 1992 Awami Chhatra League DU Unit President Moniruzzaman Badal, Lakka, Chhatra Union leader Raja, JCD leaders Mahmud and Mamun and another outsider were killed on the campus.

In 1993 JCD activists Pavel, Jirinah and Babul were killed due to internal conflicts of JCD. Awami Chhatra League worker Zakir was killed in 1994.

Another Awami Chhatra League activist Bappi and one outsider Farid were killed in 1995. The number of killings on DU campus in 1996 was two.

Last year on March 14 a meritorious student of Bengali Department Mohammad Arif was killed during a gunbattle which also left a cow dead following bullet injury. BCL (S-P) activist Imam Hossain Tanai was the second bullet victim on July 11 of 1997.

After Tanai killing Partho was the last one who succumbed to his bullet injury on Thursday. A cow grazing on the campus was killed on Thursday during cross firings. It is interesting enough to note that no trials of those 61 killings were held for lack of witnesses.

However, Dhaka University authorities formed enquiry committees to investigate into killings merely and according to observers, such steps were not enough to curb campus turmoil.