

Fresh gunbattle on DU campus

A Sun Report

The situation on Dhaka University campus deteriorated further with eruption of fresh gunbattle between two rival student organisations yesterday (Saturday).

A series of gunshots rocked the campus in the evening. Sporadic firings continued till late in the night.

The gunfight between Awami League backed Chhatra League (A-A) and pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) started around 6.30 pm. Witnesses said the Chhatra League activists fired shots from Sgt. Zahurul Haque Hall premises which were immediately responded by JCD supporters from Mohsin Hall and Surja Sen Halls.

The Chhatra League activists took possession of the University Club near Zahurul Haque Hall forcing the teachers to leave the club. Sources said, the activists told the teachers "leave the club immediately, otherwise you would be confined here till late night."

Chhatra League activists resorted to firings following a dispute over formation of a committee. To hide their internal conflict, the activists started firing towards Mohsin Hall and the battle ensued, a source said.

A group of correspondents of various national dailies and news agencies were threatened to be fired at the gate of the University Club yesterday morning. They went there to collect information about the gunbattle. "If you do not leave, you will be fired upon," gunmen told them.

Meanwhile, 'militants' backed by two rival student organisations assembled huge arms and ammunition on the campus during the last few days. The campus people were apprehending a violent armed clash between the two organisations.

A number of 'outsiders' was seen moving about on the campus on motor bikes and in a micro, bus yesterday. The microbus was forcibly occupied allegedly by a group of JCD activists from TSC area. Another

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group was following the microbus on motorbikes.

Chhatra League activists took positions at S M Hall, Jagannath and Zahurul Haque Halls while JCD activists made Mohsin, Surja Sen, Mujib and Zia Halls their forts.

Meanwhile, Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) has called upon the authorities to take all possible steps to recover arms from the university halls.

In a joint statement yesterday, Dr Anwarullah Chowdhury and Prof Shahadat Ali, President and General Secretary of DUTA, said if arms were not recovered, academic life of thousands of students of the university would be jeopardised.

They said the university authorities and hall administrations have become 'helpless' with armed terrorism on the campus stepped up.