

Agri Varsity closed till Dec 31

3 killed, 2 missing, 50 hurt in APSU-Shibir clash

Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh was closed Saturday till December 31 after a series of bloody clashes that left three students dead and about 50 injured, reports UNB.

Campus sources said two students were missing following the violence. It was the fiercest clash at the University since 1981 when four students were killed.

At the orders from the BAU authorities, male students of the university vacated their dormitories by 6 p.m. Saturday and the female by 10 a.m. Sunday.

The authorities, however, termed the closure of the campus as winter vacation. The decision was taken at an emergency joint meeting of Academic Council, Provosts and Deans with VC Shah Mohammad Faruque in the chair Saturday afternoon.

Those killed in the gunfight were identified as Monjurul Kabir (1st year, Honours, Agriculture), Shawkat Hossain (MSc, Agriculture) and Alauddin (4th year, Honours, Animal Husbandry)—all residents of Nazmul Ahsan Hall.

The three hailed from Muktagacha thana of Mymensingh, Bakerganj of Barisal and Porshuram of Feni respectively and were identified as members of the Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Central Office Secretary of Shibir, Monjurul Islam, claimed in Dhaka Sunday that their rivals also killed another Shibir member, Alauddin, and dumped his body.

The injured, most of them identified as Shibir activists, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and different clinics in the town. Condition of four of them were reported critical.

Seriously injured another three Shibir leaders were brought to Dhaka for safety, party sources said.

Protesting the killings Shibir at a rally at Charpara crossing in Mymensingh Sunday called a half-day hartal there today (Monday).

The BAU authorities also formed a high-powered probe body to investigate the incident.

Students said the clash between All-Party Student Unity (APSU) and

Chhatra Shibir erupted when the latter allegedly exploded several homemade bombs on a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal procession in front of the Shahjalal Hall early Saturday.

The Shibir and APSU activists exchanged about a hundred rounds of fire and blasted homemade bombs for about an hour till 1:30 a.m. according to the campus sources.

After a lull the gunfight resumed at about 11 a.m. when the APSU supporters marched towards three dormitories—Shahjalal Hall, Isa Khan Hall and Jamal Hossain Hall—the strongholds of Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

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Witnesses said the campus battle continued until Police and BDR intercepted and Shibir activists left the campus at about 1 p.m.

Police later arrested five APSU leaders, including the BAU unit president of Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Zahirul Islam. Shibir claimed police also picked up 12 of its leaders, including its hospitalized BAU unit general secretary Masud.

Hearing about the killings, Shibirites went on a rampage in capital Dhaka and damaged several vehicles in Purana Paltan area Saturday afternoon.

They also held a protest rally at North Gate of Baitul Mukarram. Speakers at the rally held ruling BNP's student wing, JCD, responsible for the killings.

Angry protests were also reported from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Feni and other towns.

Meanwhile, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya brought out separate processions on the Dhaka University campus Sunday morning protesting the "terrorist" act of Shibirites in BAU. Samajtantrik Chhatra Front also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of Madhu's Canteen.

A joint namaj-e-janaza for Monjur, Shawkat and Alauddin was held in front of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue Saturday afternoon.

A separate namaj-e-janaza for Alauddin was held at Baitul Mukarram Mosque on Sunday morning which was led by Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam.

A BAU Press release said all the bodies were sent to their respective homes after a prayer at Zainul Abedin auditorium in BAU on Saturday.