

6-hour gunbattle in DU campus: 4 hurt

Staff Reporter

A six-hour battle between two conflicting groups of students has left at least four persons injured in the Dhaka University campus.

The battle, which began Sunday mid-night and continued till the early hours of yesterday, broke out in Mohsin, Surjaseen, Ziaur Rahman, Jasimuddin and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman hall areas, witnesses said.

The incident is believed to be an outburst of rivalry between the two factions of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). The same groups also fought in the campus 12 days ago.

In the battle, about 300 rounds of gunshots were fired and a number of bombs exploded creating panic among the inmates of the halls and residents in and around the campus.

One of the conflicting group claimed that two of their workers received bullet injuries during the battle. The source also named the injured as Titu of Surjaseen Hall and Raja of Mujib Hall. No details about the injured were however available.

Besides, two persons, who were passing through the area by a motor cycle were manhandled by the clashing students. One of them identified himself as a private assistant to a minister while the other was learnt to be a Jatiya Party member. The motor cycle was later set ablaze by the attackers.

During the exchange of fire the panic-stricken residents of the halls came out from their rooms and took shelter outside the hall buildings to

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later rescued the examinees from the institute premises.

The university authorities made the special arrangements in the wake of attack on Shibir workers on the campus by a section of students, allegedly Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists, ever the last one month. Vice-Chancellor of DU Prof. Abdul Mannan along with senior officials and teachers visited the Institute after the incident.

Meanwhile, at a rally after the incidents, the students of the Institute called a strike at the DU today to protest 'vandalism' by Shibir workers.

Meanwhile, Islami Chhatra Shibir at a press conference at the National Press Club, blamed JCD workers for the attack on its members at the Social Well-fare Institute.

It demanded punishment to the attackers, cancellation of the examinations of yesterday, fresh arrangements to hold those, and 'rehabilitation' of Shibir worker at the DU halls.