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## 2-hr shoot-out rocks DU campus

# 15 including 2 teachers hurt, Journalism Deptt ransacked

Varsity Correspondent

In a two-hour long shoot out on Dhaka University campus on Thursday noon at least 15 persons including two university teachers were injured and the offices of the Dean of Arts Faculty and Journalism Department were damaged by the activists of a powerful student organisation.

Of the injured persons Dr. Ratan Lal Chakrabarty, a senior teacher of the History Department, who was hit by a bullet on his right leg, has been admitted to the hospital for disabled at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Dr. Abdus Salam, a senior teacher of Journalism Department who was injured when the armed activists of a student organisation attacked the office of the Department had to be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury of Management Department, Member Secretary of "Nirmul Committee," was assaulted at gun point allegedly by the activists of JCD in front of the Vice-Chancellor at the office of the Dean of Arts Faculty.

The office room of Dr. Arefin Siddiqui, Chairman of Journalism Department and General Secretary of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA), was also ransacked. All the rooms of the teachers of Journalism Department, library and seminar hall of the Department were also damaged.

The armed clash erupted on the campus over the programmes of the ruling party BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Awami

League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on Dr. Ershadul Bari, Dean of Law Faculty who created controversy by his role against the national anthem at the Senate meeting of National University. The two rival student organisations held rallies and brought out processions on the campus on Dr. Bari issue that led to violent clashes.

Eye witnesses said that over 250 gun shots were fired during the two-hour shoot out on the campus. Police contingents in front of Vice-Chancellor's residence and JCD stronghold Surja Sen Hall remained silent spectators during the shoot out. But the police contingent near the University Mosque where the BCL workers took side swung into

action and fired twelve rounds of tear gas.

At one stage the JCD activists stormed the Arts faculty building. They entered into the teachers lounge and shouted at Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury who was that time sitting with other teachers at the lounge. Panicky students, particularly the girls, ran for safety when the armed activists were ransacking the offices of the Dean of Arts Faculty and Journalism Department.

Receiving information of attacks on the offices of the Dean of Arts Faculty and Journalism Department, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed along with Arts Faculty Dean Prof. Aminul Islam and other

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### DU campus

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Senior teachers including former DUTA President Prof. Saaduddin rushed to the spot. By that time the armed activists left the place and took position at the gate of Arts Faculty building.

After going round the ransacked offices of the teachers when the Vice-Chancellor accompanied by other teachers were leaving the Faculty building and walking towards his residence, a group of students rushed to them and assaulted Prof. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

Eye witnesses said that at one stage two JCD activists pointed pistols at Prof. Mannan Chowdhury despite repeated appeal from the Vice-Chancellor to behave properly. Other teachers resisted the student group and rescued their colleague and went to Vice-Chancellor's residence.

The clash started around 12 noon and the shoot out continued till 1-30 p.m. The campus returned to normalcy at around 2 p.m. when the armed activists left the Arts Faculty area.