

JCD faction captures DU Mohsin Hall, rivals ousted

Varsity Correspondent

A faction of ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) captured Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University, ousting their rival faction from the dormitory on Thursday noon.

At least 30 rounds of gunshots were traded between the cadres of Asad faction and police during the assault on the hall. The Asad-group members took control of the dormitory, forcing the Shishir faction out.

After two hours of gun-battle, police and paramilitary BDR forces jointly raided the hall and recovered only six rounds of bullet. Police picked up 14 outsiders during the raid.

Witnesses said a group of armed

cadres led by Asaduzzaman Asad, organising secretary of DU unit of JCD, stormed into the dormitory at about 12:30 pm. They fired 20-25 rounds of gunshots while police deployed at the hall-gate countered with five shots to disperse the attackers.

Going inside the hall the Asad faction put its main entrance under lock and key. The attackers allegedly ransacked some 20 rooms and tore apart the identity cards of the followers of the rival faction, led by Harunur Rashid Shishir, president of the hall unit JCD.

Supporters of Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, vice president of the suspended central committee of JCD

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JCD faction

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and brother of Deputy Minister for Education, Advocate Abdus Salam Pintu backed Asad during the attack, witnesses said.

After three hours of the armed offensive, police and BDR entered the hall breaking the lock. A unit of Fire Service and Civil Defence was also called in to break the locks of different rooms.

The police at the hall-gate said they saw some 20 youths entering the hall with sophisticated fire-arms. But the Deputy Commissioner (South) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police M Shahidul Islam told university reporters that they did not find any arms inside the hall.

Later talking to the reporters, one faction leader, Asaduzzaman Asad said the genuine residents returned to their hall. "The students who are now staying out are welcome to the hall, except terrorist Shishir," he added.

When contacted, Harunur Rashid Shishir said some non-students led by Asad captured the hall on gunpoint, ousting hundreds of genuine students. All the senior JCD leaders of the hall unit of JCD including the president, general secretary and organising secretary are now staying outside the hall, he added.

Both the president and general secretary of the Dhaka University unit JCD refused to make any comment in this regard.

Earlier, on Wednesday night, supporters of Laltu faction established their supremacy in Sergeant Zahurul Huq Hall, ousting the Asad supporters.

Witnesses said some cadres of Asad faction went to the Zahurul Huq hall from Zia Hall, a stronghold of the Asad faction, and fired some blank shots. They were beaten up by the Laltu supporters and later ousted from the hall.

Pahari and Shahin, two supporters of Asad, received severe injuries during the clash. The Asad faction staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the VC house at night.

Thursday's incident might have correlation with the Wednesday's incident, said a JCD leader.

After repeated attempts, the Vice Chancellor of the university was not available for comments.