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18 hurt in DU clashes

By A Staff Correspondent

Eighteen persons including 18 students of Dhaka University were injured in violent clashes between supporters of Chhatra Sangram Parishad and DUCSU General Secretary Ziauddin Bablu on the campus on Thursday. Eight of the injured have been admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first aid.

The fiasco lasted four and a half hours in which a motor cycle was burnt. Gun shots and explosions were heard during the fighting and according to eye-witnesses some of the supporters brandished weapons as awe-stricken students ran for cover.

Trouble originated from an incident of Wednesday when a private car belonging to a supporter of Ziauddin Bablu was set on fire. Tension prevailed on the campus and the situation took a violent turn after rival processions met head on near Battala at around 8 a.m. Rival supporters armed with hockey sticks, rods and other lethal weapons confronted each other in bloody clashes forcing the closure of classes, library and cafeteria.

Those injured included Shafiqul Alam, 22, Asraful Haque 25, Abdul Mannan an outsider, 25 Mubaon

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DU clashes

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Kashem 30 Monajum 22
 Mohammad Hossain Dali, 25,
 Sultan Hossain Depu outsider
 Kamruj Hassan 27, Hamaiet-
 ullah 25 Abu Syed Akbor Ali
 outsider Monirul Islam out-
 sider Shamim 25 Zakir Hos-
 sain 30 and Khundaker Abul
 Hossain.

Meanwhile, Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzaman Mia and Dr. A.K. Azad Chowdhury, President and Secretary respectively of Dhaka University Teachers Association in a joint statement on Thursday said that display of lethal weapons by different student organisations on the campus on Thursday has terrorised the general students. They said that the "battle between rival groups of students continued for about two hours" in which some students were injured and, at one stage, the house of a teacher was attacked.

The incident, they said have alarmed them. They called upon the authorities to take appropriate measures to stop recurrence of such sad incidents on the campus.

The General Secretary of Students Union, Mr. Ziauddin Bablu in a separate statement strongly condemned the hired elements who let loose a reign of terror on the campus. He said that these "hired elements indulged in terrorism on the campus. He said that all organisations should have the right to express their views without being obstructed.

In another statement, Vice-President and General Secretary of A.F. Rahman Hall Students Union, General Secretary of S.M. Hall Students Union, Vice-President and General Secretary of Mohsin Hall Students Union, Vice-President and General Secretary of Shahidullah Hall Students Union and General Secretary of Jashimuddin Hall Students Union condemned the situation prevailing on the campus. They also urged the general students to resist all professional politicians from indulging in political activities on the campus.

Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj also called upon the general students to resist such activities. It condemned all those who indulge in the acts of terrorism on the campus.

Different student organisations also in separate Press release on Thursday expressed concern over the recent unhappy incidents on the Dhaka University campus. They requested the concerned authorities for the restoration of normal academic atmosphere at the campus. Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, Jatiya Chhatra Dal and Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj issued Press release on Thursday condemning the recent unpleasant incidents on the campus.

Mr. Iqbal Hossain Babla, convener, city unit of Natun Bangla Chhatra Samaj urged the student community to resist occurrence of such incidents.