

2 killed, 3 injured as students exchange fire

# Dhaka University closed sine die

By A Staff Reporter

Dhaka University was closed sine die on Wednesday as supporters of two student organisations clashed in a gun battle for about an hour following the killing of a student, Abdul Halim in gun shot at the Surjaseen Hall gate the preceding night.

A rickshaw puller Abdur Rahim (25) was caught in the exchange of fire in front of S. M. Hall on Wednesday and died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital later. Three others including two students were injured. The condition of one student was critical at the time of writing of this report late last evening.

The University Syndicate which held an emergency meeting at the residence of the Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Mannan, decided on the closure of the University, ordered students to vacate the residential halls by 5 p.m. yesterday (Wednesday) and also decided that no examinations held until further orders.

The student organisations involved in the armed clash were the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (BJCD), BNP's student wing, and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) student front of JSD (Inu). They were at odds for two months over occupation of seats in the residential halls.

The DU Syndicate formed a 8-member high powered committee to investigate the incident and submit report within 15 days.

Another series of armed clash

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Resident students of Rokeya Hall like other halls are seen leaving the hall on Wednesday as the Dhaka University authorities closed the university sine die and asked the students to vacate the halls by 5 p.m. —Times

## DUCTA's concern

By A Staff Reporter

Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUCTA) on Wednesday expressed concern over the violence at the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday midnight and Wednesday.

The association termed the persons responsible for the violence as hated enemy of the university, society and the nation.

At an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the association on Wednesday evening DUCTA appealed to the conscious section of the people to take active role in resisting such anarchism and help restore congenial atmosphere in the university. The meeting was presided over by Prof. K. A. M. Saaduddin, President of the Association.

The meeting said that certain anti-people quarters were using some students and outsiders to disrupt the normal activities of the university. It demanded effective neutral measures by the government, political parties and the people to save the university.

The meeting observed that the authorities could easily free the campus from arms if they really wanted to.

The Bangladesh Times

# Dhaka University closed

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between supporters of the two rival student organisations it may be recalled, had prompted the University Syndicate to adopt a decision for closure of the university in the last week of June. The decision, however, was not implemented as various student organisations including the warring groups assured that incidents of violence would not recur.

Abdul Halim who was killed in a gun shot at the Surjaseen Hall gate on Tuesday midnight was identified as a BJCD supporter.

A resident of the hall, Abdul Halim was a first year (old) student of History and hailed from Galschiba, Patuakhali.

The situation in the university on Wednesday was quiet till about 10-30 a.m. when Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal took out an angry procession protesting the killing of their supporter the previous night. The procession made a round of the Arts Faculty, ransacked some rooms, broke windowpanes and proceeded towards S. M. Hall where the followers of JSD (Inu) supported by BCL (Mushtaque) were reported to have encamped taking "battle position" inside the hall and on roof top. The processionists were stopped by some leaders of JCD in front of the Vice-Chancellor's House.

They, however, again re-assembled and went towards S. M. Hall alleging that BCL (Mustaque) Supporters had killed Abdul Halim. An intense exchange of fire ensued. Some blasts were also heard.

The first casualty in the exchange of fire was the rickshaw-puller Abdur Rahim who was coming towards the university from Plassey. Two others were injured in the armed clash, one of them inside the Hall, the other on the road. He was a teenage passerby.

The gun battle that continued for over an hour was marked by a number of explosions and gunshots in and around S.M. Hall. The entire university areas was in the grip of panic.

Asad Ahmed Munna (20) a first year (old) student of Geology who received bullet injuries in his head inside S.M. Hall was at a critical state at P.G. Hospital till the time of filing of this report late last night.

Quamrul (16) the passerby, received bullet injury in his wrist and was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Azharul Islam, An N.A.

Student in Political Science from Fazul Huq Hall was admitted to DMCH with serious cut injury in his right hand. The injured students are reported to be workers of BCL (Mushtaque).

The body of Abdul Halim was sent for his village home by a university transport after the namaj-e-zanaja at the D.U. Battala after the Zohr prayer. BNP leaders K.M. Obaidur Rahman, Barrister Abul Hasnat, the Vice-Chancellor and the Pro Vice-Chancellor of D.U. were among those who took part in the zanaja prayer.

Earlier, on Tuesday night the killing of Abdul Halim at the Surja Sen Hall Gate around 12-15 p.m. was followed by ransacking some rooms in Fazlul Huq, Shahidullah, Surja Sen and Jashimuddin halls of the university. In all 22 rooms were ransacked in the night and luggages of some rooms set ablaze. All the rooms reportedly were in possessions of students belonging to BCL (Mushtaque).

As the news of the killing of a student spread, hundreds of students and members of the public gathered at the DMCH emergency in the early hours of Wednesday.

D.U. V.C. Prof. Abdul Man-



Quamrul (16), a passerby, received bullet injury in front of S.M. Hall where two rival groups of students clashed on Wednesday noon. —Times



Abdur Rahim (25), a rickshaw driver received bullet injury on the abdomen during a violent clash between rival groups of students in front of S.M. Hall on Wednesday noon. Later he died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. —Times

nan had assured the gathering necessary steps to punish the killers.

The campus became calm by the evening as students left all the eleven residential halls. Police was patrolling the area.

Panic-stricken general students of the residential halls faced serious trouble as they had to vacate by 5 p.m. at short notice. Particularly affected were those having no relations in Dhaka city. Female students of Rokeya and Shamsunnahar halls were found to leave the halls with great difficulty as most of them had to carry their own bags because rickshaws were scarce in the campus.

Our D.U. correspondent adds: BJCD-led Sangrami Chhatra Jote in a press statement on Wednesday termed the killing of Abdul Halim as the outcome of a conspiracy to undo the unity of 22 student organisations achieved recently.

The Jote (combine) called for maintaining the unity of the 22 student organisations for the sake of democratic movement, condemned the killing and demanded punishment of the persons responsible for it.

BCL (Mushtaque) in a press statement on the other hand alleged that the killing of Abdul Halim was the outcome of a clash that took place between two groups of BJCD workers at Surja Sen Hall.

BCL (Mushtaque) alleged that BJCD workers had attacked rooms of BCL (M) workers in different halls to shift the responsibility for the killing. They also attacked BCL (Mushtaque) workers at S. M. hall on Wednesday. BCL (M) demanded expulsion of BJCD, at least seven of its "terrorist" workers from the campus for restoring congenial atmosphere it also demanded compensation to the students affected during the clashes on Tuesday midnight and Wednesday.

Jatiya Chhatra Samaj (JCS) in a press statement on Wednesday alleged that a known section of armed hooligans was creating panic in Dhaka University campus for a long time. The university was closed due to activities of the said section causing a great harm to the academic career of general students, it observed.

The statement urged the DU authorities and the students to defect the killers of Abdul Halim, and declare their names before the people and ensure peaceful academic atmosphere by removing them from the university.

Statements condemning the killing of Abdul Halim were issued also by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Shahjahan Saraj), Progotishil Jatiyatabadi Dal (Shawkat) Bangladesh Chhatra League (Shamshu) and Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir (Sultan).