

Gunshots, bomb blasts rock DU campus during hartal

By DU Correspondent

Gunshots and bomb blasts rocked the Dhaka University campus during the opposition-sponsored countrywide half-day hartal yesterday.

Campus sources said at least four rounds of gunshots were fired in front of the Institute of Fine Arts at about 11 am. Some 10 crackers were also exploded in and around the campus during the hartal hours, sources added.

A security guard of VC's office, identified as Abul Kalam, received minor injuries when a group of pro-hartal activists hurled crackers in the university's bus depot behind the Administrative Building at about 12 noon.

Hartal paralysed the normal academic and administrative activities of the university. No classes and examinations could be held due to the hartal, sources said.

Meanwhile, a DU press release said regular activities

were held in the Administrative Building and the hall offices of the university. The libraries of the university, including the Central Library were also remained open during the hartal hours.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP, brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally at the TSC road-island in the morning in support of the hartal.

Addressing the rally, JCD leaders said that government had lost their moral right to remain in power any more as they failed to provide basic needs to the countrymen.

"The people of the country are now passing their days with great misery due to acute scarcity of power, gas and water," JCD leaders said.

They urged people for launching a vigorous street movement throughout the country to topple the "autocratic and anti-people" Awami

League government.

Presided over by DU unit of JCD president Monir Hossain, the rally was also addressed by Monjur Elahi, ABM Mosharraf Hossain, Mostafizul Islam Mamun, Tariqul Islam Bony and Abdul Bari Danny.

Ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of Madhu's Canteen to protest the hartal.

BCL leaders condemned the opposition parties for enforcing hartal frequently in a bid to re-allise their petty political interests.

They urged the student community to make a strong resistance against the opposition's destructive and undemocratic activities for the sake of country's economy.

Among others, BCL president Bahadur Bepari, general secretary Ajay Kar Khokan and leaders Sajjad Hossain and AKM Azim addressed the rally.