

Year-long DU silence shattered

By DU Correspondent

Breaking nearly a year of interval in deadly violence, two factions of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were engaged in a gunfight at two halls of Dhaka University yesterday evening hurting at least three persons.

The bullet-hit were identified as Sahera Begum, 55, wife of a university staff and Salahuddin, 25, and Ali Akbar, 28, both DU students. Sahera Begum and Ali Akbar was admitted to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital. Salahuddin is an MA final year student of Social Welfare while Ali Akbar is an M Phil student of the university.

Eyewitnesses said the clash ensued when a group of BCL activists led by Shamim Ahmed attacked rival activists of Mainuddin Babu group at the extension building of Mohsin Hall at about 6 pm. The Babu group had ousted Shamim group from Sergeant Zahurul Huq hall only a month back.

Activists of Shamim group

went to the extension building of Mohsin Hall by a microbus and fired at least 10 gunshots, the witnesses said. Members of Babu group who were staying at the extension retaliated with several gunshots.

Then activists of Shamim group led by Tokai Mizan left Mohsin Hall extension and rushed to Zahurul Haq Hall to recapture it from Babu group.

They tried to fire their way into the hall from Palashi area.

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But they could not succeed in their attempt as activists of Babu group fired back, students at the hall said.

The two groups traded at least 15 rounds of gunshots during the gunfight creating panic among students, teachers and university staff. Sahera Begum, Ali Akbar and Salahuddin were injured during the gunfight at Zahurul Huq Hall.

Police, deployed at the hall, lobbed six teargas shells to disperse the feuding groups.

The fight over, police raided both Zahurul Haq Hall and the extension of Mohsin Hall and arrested three outsiders from the extension building. No arms or ammunition were recovered.

Meanwhile, DU authorities at an emergency meeting last night expelled both Mainuddin Babu and Shamim Ahmed from the university for their involvement with the incident. Babu was a student of Social Welfare while Shamim a student of Bengali Literature. Vice-chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury chaired the meeting at his residence.

A three-member probe committee headed by Pro-VC Prof Shadat Ali was formed to investigate the firing incident. The committee has been asked to submit its reports as early as possible.

The authorities also decided to demolish various shops and stalls built between Zahurul Haq Hall and Salimullah Hall within a week.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus following the gunfight. Police was seen guarding both the halls.

Campus sources said that the clash was a sequel to Wednesday's incident of manhandling of Shamim Ahmed by the activists of Babu at Palashi crossing. Tapan, an associate of Shamim, was stabbed during the incident.

Activists of Babu group forcibly snatched the mobile phone and private car of Shamim when he came to Palashi area on Wednesday night. They also fired several gunshots and compelled Shamim to leave the place at gun point.

Both Shamim Ahmed and Mainuddin Babu lead separate terrorist groups on the campus, sources said.

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