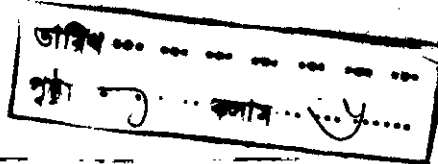


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20 hurt: 50 rooms ransacked, two set on fire

Murder of BCL activist triggers violence at DU

JCD calls indefinite strike from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student and activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was shot dead at Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University yesterday.

Firoz Ahmed, a Masters student of Islamic Studies and Vice-president of BCL unit at the hall, was shot in his throat at his room. He hailed from Shajadpur in Sirajganj district.

The killing sparked clashes between activists of Awami League backed BCL and pro-BNP JCD (Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal) at Kavi Jasim Uddin Hall, Surya Sen Hall, Bangabandhu Hall and Ziaur Rahman hall, leaving at least 20 injured.

Fifty dormitory rooms were ransacked and two set afire.

Seriously injured Lokman Hossain, Lutfar Rahman, Hannan and Sagar were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Meanwhile the DU JCD unit called an indefinite strike at the university, demanding arrest of armed terrorists and recovery of illegal arms by raiding halls without prior announcement.

Mystery shrouds the killing. Some sources said it was a planned killing as it took place when most of the resident students of the hall went to the mosque for Jumma prayer.

Some of the students said they heard a gunshot at

room 420 at about 1:40pm. As they rushed to the third floor room, they saw some unidentified youths carrying Firoz to the hall gate from his room.

"At first we could not understand what happened. Minutes later, we came to know that he was shot and was being taken to hospital," said a student of the hall.

Some students said there were finger scratches and marks of scuffle on the body. The bed sheet used by Firoz was found on the ground outside the room with stains of blood. It was thrown through the window.

While being carried out of the hall, his neck and throat were covered with a shirt so that the injured part or blood stains are not visible, they said.

The youths fled away leaving Firoz at the DMCH morgue.

Jewel, a roommate of Firoz told newsmen that four youths from Dhaka College came to Zia Hall at around noon. "I left Firoz and the youths at the room when I went out for Juma prayer at about 1pm," he said.

Police took Jewel to custody for interrogation.

Campus sources claimed that there was a feud between Firoz and Rizvi, another BCL leader at the hall. Both belonged to the Bagerhat group of BCL, said a BCL activist. He said Rizvi left the hall just before the killing.

Another source claimed that some youths came from nearby Katabon area, killed Firoz and left the hall.

Police raided Ziaur Rahman Hall after the killing and

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Murder of BCL activist

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recovered a barrel of a gun.

Both JCD and BCL brought out separate processions on the DU campus, blaming each other for the killing.

As tension mounted, a good number of students left their dormitories. Additional police force was deployed on the campus to avert further clash.

Meanwhile, the DU Syndicate at an emergency meeting expressed grave concern at the volatile situation and postponed all classes and examinations till Monday.

After the clashes at DU, angry JCD activists damaged at least 10 vehicles at Shahbagh crossing protesting "ouster" of JCD men from halls. Police arrested five of them. They are Mamun, Asaduzzaman, Manik Mia, Abul Khayer and Karim Ali.

Classes and other academic activities at DU had resumed on Sunday last after two weeks as JCD called off its strike.

At a hurriedly call press conference at Madhu's canteen, BCL leaders alleged that armed men of JCD, with the help of Shibir, plotted the killing to paralyse DU again. They demanded arrest and punishment of the killers.

JCD leaders at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club said that the killing was an outcome of internal feud in BCL.

They claimed that Russel, a leader of the BCL unit at Dhaka College, Naju, a BCL leader from Sirajganj and Sentu killed Firoz as per a directive of Rizvi.

They also alleged that the DU Vice Chancellor, the Proctor and the hall provosts were patronising terrorists. They demanded a judicial inquiry into the killing.

A case was filed with Ramna police in this connection.

Both BCL and JCD will hold demonstrations on the campus today to protest the killing.

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