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DU closed for 3 days

# BCL leader gunned down at Zia Hall

Varsity Correspondent

Unidentified assailants gunned down a student leader at Zia Hall of Dhaka University on Friday noon that triggered a bloody clash between the rival BCL and JCD activists on the campus.

The victim was identified as Firoj Ahmed, vice president of Muktiyoddha Ziaur Rahman Hall unit of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). He was a final year examinee of Islamic Studies Department and a resident of Room No. 420 of the dormitory.

Zia Hall students said they heard a gunshot when they were taking meal at about 1:30 pm. "Some unknown youths, said to be outsider friends of Firoj were seen carrying his body from his Room

No. 420," one student said preferring anonymity.

The student said, the roommate of Firoj was not in the room at that time and those friends took his body to the DMCH and hurriedly left the place.

The bullet pierced his upper chest, witnesses said. Another opinion said the bullet hit him when he was cleaning his firearm.

Police, however, did not find any shell of the cartridge at the place of occurrence.

In the backdrop of the killing, the DU Syndicate at an emergency meeting on Friday evening closed of the university for the next three days. No classes or examinations will be held during the period.

The meeting also formed a five-

member probe body headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof M Shahadat Ali and asked to submit its inquiry report in seven days.

Following the killing of Firoj, angry BCL activists beat up at least 20 activists of their rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at different halls. They also set ablaze two rooms at Surya Sen Hall and ransacked at least 50 others at different halls belonging to JCD men.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Among them, the condition of Hannan of Sociology Dept, Lokman Hossain of Islamic Studies Dept, Lutfar Rahman of History Dept and Sagar of

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## BCL leader

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Sociology Dept were stated to be critical.

Police rescued JCD activist Liton, a student of International Relations department and resident of Jasimuddin Hall from the angry BCL activists.

Following the killing, agitated BCL men ousted all the JCD activists and supporters from Suryasen, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib, Jasimuddin, AF Rahman and Haji Muhsin halls.

The university authorities recently rehabilitated most of the ousted JCD activists in their respective dormitories during a non-stop student strike enforced by the JCD.

Meanwhile, JCD leaders at an impromptu press conference announced the resumption of their suspended strike on the campus from today (Saturday) "until and unless an atmosphere of coexistence could be ensured." JCD suspended the strike on August 12 after a marathon shutdown of 15 days.

"The university authorities are responsible for the unwanted incident. JCD's claim has been proved to be true that there is huge arms and ammunition in the halls," said JCD General Secretary Shahabuddin Laltu.

On the other hand, BCL leaders held JCD cadres responsible for the killing. "JCD committed the clandestine killing when students were saying Juma prayers," said AKM Azim, General Secretary, BCL DU unit.

Within half an hour, the news spread throughout the campus erupting rage among the BCL activists. They brought out procession from their respective halls toward the Zia Hall.

BCL and JCD activists of the Zia Hall brought out separate procession inside the hall and got locked in brawl.