

Scores injured as DIU, City univ students clash

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Brawl sparked by trivial incident escalates into arson, vandalism, and campus shutdown



Photo: Collected

Violence erupted in Savar Sunday night when students from Daffodil International University (DIU) and City University got into fights, chasing each other through the streets till the early hours of Monday.

According to authorities, around 200 students from both universities were injured in the clashes that took place in the Khagan area of Savar's Ashulia.

The violence began with the vandalism of a DIU student mess. In retaliation, the administrative building at City University was trashed, and multiple vehicles were set ablaze and damaged.

According to students, it all started over a trivial incident.

On Sunday night, a few City University students were hanging out next to the "Bachelor Paradise Hostel", where DIU students resided. As a City University student spat without looking, it hit a DIU student riding by on a motorcycle. This led to an argument between the two groups.

Later, around 9:00pm, about 50 City University students attacked and vandalised the DIU student mess. As videos of the incident went viral on social media, DIU students gathered at the scene and began moving towards City University campus, leading to chases and counter-chases, and the throwing of brickbats between the two groups.



Photo: Collected

Meanwhile, DIU proctorial team arrived at the scene and informed the City University administration about the matter, urging them to take steps to resolve the issue.

At one point, City University students allegedly beat up a DIU student at a separate location adjacent to their campus. In response, DIU students entered the City University campus and set fire to three university buses and a private car parked there. In addition, a bus, two private cars, a motorcycle, and parts of the administrative building were vandalised.

Members of the police, army, and Rab later arrived at the scene and brought the situation under control.

"The situation is now calm. No case has been filed in connection with the incident, and no one has been arrested," said Helal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station.

Enam Medical College Hospital Duty Manager Yusuf Ali said 12 students had been admitted to the general ward for treatment.

DIU External Affairs Director Syed Mizanur Rahman said, "The matter [spit incident] was resolved after an apology was offered. But later that night, they [City University students] vandalised the DIU student mess. We're trying to resolve the matter."

Some 11 DIU students detained by students of City University during the clash were later handed over to the DIU authorities at around 3:00pm on Monday.

DIU Proctor Sheikh Muhammad Aliar said more than 150 of their students were injured, while City University Proctor Abu Zayed said at least 50 of their students were hurt.



Photo: Collected

City University Registrar Prof Dr Mir Akhter said, "Since we have suffered a great deal of damage, academic activities have been suspended until November 6. In addition, students have been ordered to vacate dormitories to avoid further violence."

City University Vice-Chancellor Dr Lutfar Rahman has claimed the university suffered losses worth at least Tk 20-25 crore due to vandalism, arson, and looting.

"The DIU VC has expressed grief over the incident and assured me of compensation. I told him to send a team to properly assess the extent of the losses," he told a press conference Monday.

Around noon yesterday, Prof Dr Bimal Chandra Das, dean of DIU's Faculty of Science and Information Technology, visited City University campus.

"I'm truly ashamed and sorry for the vandalism and destruction that has taken place here. Whoever is responsible should be punished."