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BCL-JCD clash: 20 hall rooms ransacked Dhaka Medical College closed sine-die

Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Medical College was closed sine-die following series of clashes between the two groups of students over a trifling incident at its Golden Jubilee Function on Wednesday. Academic Council of Dhaka Medical College (DMC) in an emergency meeting on Wednesday afternoon announced the closure for indefinite period. The meeting was presided over by the DMC Principal Professor M A Hadi and it was attended by many of the council members.

All resident students of the college have been asked to vacate their dormitories by 6 p.m. on Wednesday. Most of the students left their halls in the evening.

Several contingents of police have been deployed in and around the college premises to avoid further unpleasant incidents and maintain law and order on the campus.

At least 15 students including three leaders of Dhaka Medical Col-

lege Central Student Union (DMCCSU) were injured in a series of clashes that lasted for about four hours.

The clashes mainly concentrated at Dhaka Medical College canteen, teachers lounge, DMCCSU office, Fazl-e-Rabbi Hall, College entrance and the podium of Golden Jubilee Function.

More than 20 rooms of Fazl-e-Rabbi Hall were ransacked and four of them were torched by College canteen, function podium and DMCCSU office were also ransacked.

The clash ensued over distribution of snacks during the tea break soon after the inauguration ceremony of long-cherished golden jubilee function of Dhaka Medical College, witnesses said.

Entertainment of the function was arranged by the workers of ruling party's student wing Chhatra League, they added.

Some students' allegation that the entertainment committee members were not neutral in distributing snacks caused hot altercation with some of JCD workers. The situation, however, turned cool and the function of Golden Jubilee was on progress until lunch break.

The anger which originated in the minds of JCD workers during the tea break got an outburst during the lunch break as the DMCCSU Vice-President Tauhidul Alam John was not given some additional lunch packets.

The JCD workers at this stage went on rampage and ransacked the college canteen. They also threw away many lunch packets and damaged utensils. The DMCCSU Vice-President Tauhidul Alam John received injuries during the clash as a flying bottle hit his head.

The JCD workers brought out a procession on the campus protesting

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the incident and created panic by chasing their rivals. The on-going Golden Jubilee function of the college was spoiled as the guests and the dignitaries attending the function ran for their safety. Police lobbed a number of teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

In the absence of BCL activists on the college campus who escaped the campus following chase, the JCD supporters assembled in front of college main gate and held a brief rally there. Nuruzzaman Khasru, M. Ashraf Nipu and Rafiqul Alam addressed the rally.

In the mean time, some BCL workers entered Fazl-e-Rabbi Hall and ransacked 16 rooms belonging to JCD workers. They also blasted several bombs and fired several rounds of blank shots during their operation.

Receiving the information, the angry JCD workers tried to come back to the hall. But they were prevented by the police which caused another round of clash with the policemen, leaving at least five persons injured including DMCCSU Cultural Secretary Ashrafal Alam Nipu and Sports Secretary Rashed Reza.

Later, some JCD workers entered the hall and torched four rooms belonging to Chhatra League workers. The attackers beat some BCL workers there.

The College Principal Professor M.A. Hadi at this stage entered the hall along with the personnel of law enforcing agencies and drove the JCD workers out. Police and fire fighters extinguished the fire.

Situation became calm in the evening as police and college administration unitedly dispersed the warring groups.

The injured persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are Tauhidul Islam Jhon, Ashrafal Alam Nipu, Rashed Reza, A.B. Siddiq, Fatig, Roni, Imrul Hasan, Javed, Milon, Kanchan, Shovan, Shams, Shahed and Tridip.

Meanwhile, Secretary General of Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee of Dhaka Medical College Professor Nazmunnahar in a statement said that fresh announcement of the date would be made later on. All activities in this connection have been postponed until next announcement.