



JCD demands V-C's resignation Situation remains calm on DU campus

Varsity Correspondent

Situation remained calm on the Dhaka University campus on Tuesday despite fear of clash between rival student organisations following arms rattling on Monday night.

Both the rivals - Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP supported Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) - staged demonstrations on the campus.

The campus was rocked by gunshots on Monday night when armed cadres from different halls fired blank shots apparently to scare off the rivals.

Witnesses said, the firing started at about 9.45 pm following explosion of several bombs by the JCD activists near Sir AF Rahman Hall and Haji Muhsin Hall.

The cadres inside the AF Rahman Hall, Muhsin Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall retaliated by firing about 50 rounds of bullets.

Following the incident, movement of all kinds of vehicle inside the campus came to a halt.

Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury visited AF Rahman Hall following the incident. No raid followed in the halls after the shootouts.

The JCD leaders on Tuesday repeated their demand for the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and threatened to go for a non-stop strike if their ousted activists were not allowed to return to their dormitories.

Accusing BCL activists of ousting JCD supporters from Shahidullah Hall and Surya Sen Hall on Monday JCD general secretary Shahabuddin Laltu said academic atmosphere would not return to the campus if Azad Chowdhury administration continued.

Leaders of BCL at their rally accused the JCD leaders of trying to occupy the dormitories by violence. "The terrorists and hoodlums of the city were seen in JCD's procession which is a threat to academic atmosphere," BCL President Bahadur Bepari said.

The left leaning Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) demonstrated in front of the VC office Tuesday protesting the unusual situation prevailing on the campus.

The leaders blamed Azad Chowdhury administration for patronising the AL-backed Chhatra League in last five years.

The DU authorities earlier decided to arrange a tete-a-tete between the leaders of rival student bodies to defuse tension that has gripped the campus.

But the leaders of different student bodies said the authorities did not contact them till Tuesday noon.

Presence of students was more on the campus on Tuesday and the scheduled classes were held.

Besides, teachers of the university were now involved in debates over the campus situation.

Two hundred and eight teachers of AL-backed Blue Panel in a joint statement on Tuesday urged the Caretaker Government to take necessary steps against the conspiracy of vested quarter to destabilise the DU campus. They also demanded strict action against the armed cadres who demonstrated illegal arms and attacked their rivals in last two days.

On the contrary 157 teachers of BNP and Jamaat-backed White Panel on Monday demanded recovery of illegal arms and arrest of terrorists from campus and urged the Caretaker Government to launch a combing operation in the halls and ensure peaceful coexistence of all student organisations.

BCL, still the dominating force in the dormitories, withdrew expulsion of some leaders, including Shafiq, president of Muhsin Hall unit BCL, who were expelled previously on charge of terrorism to gear up the activists, sources said.