

BCL rivals clash at JU over control of halls

20 injured; gunfire rocks campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 students were injured as two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League of Jahangirnagar University (JU) clashed over establishing their dominance on campus yesterday.

During the clashes, the students fired at least 25 bullets against each other while police lobbed 42 canisters of teargas to disperse the feuding students.

A large contingent of police and other law enforcement agencies were deployed on campus to avert further clashes. General students were still in panic.

State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj told The Daily Star last night that tough punitive actions would be taken against the people responsible for yesterday's

violence in JU regardless of their party affiliation.

Witnesses said the clashes broke out around 12:30pm between the two groups--one led by Chhatra League JU unit President Sohel Parvez and General Secretary Mahmud Naser Jonny and the other by Chhatra League leader Azibur Rahman.

During the clashes, chases and counter chases took place between them in the space between 'Bangabandhu Hall' and 'Maulana Bhasani Hall'.

Both the groups opened fire on each other and continued their gun battle for over half an hour. Police rushed to the spot and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the feuding students, witnesses said.

Campus sources said Chhatra League

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BCL rivals clash

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students led by Sohel and Jonny drove away the students led by Azibur Rahman from AFM Kamaluddin Hall and Salam Barkat Hall Thursday midnight.

Members of Azibur's group retreated to Bhasani Hall and Bangabandhu Hall.

Since then Sohel group has been preparing to drive them out of those dormitories too and Azibur group was preparing to return to AFM Kamaluddin Hall and Salam Barkat Hall.

JU Proctor Prof Nasir Uddin said the clashes erupted after a group of students who were ousted from campus during the four-party regime returned to their dormitories.

The proctor claimed blank shots were fired but denied that any gun battle took place on campus.

He said most of the injured were wounded by teargas canisters.

Chhatra League leaders claimed some vested quarters, in disguise of Chhatra League, had been trying to destabilise the campus. They said they resisted their attempt.

Sohel Parvez told The Daily Star that activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir in disguise of the Chhatra League tried to taint the image of the university and Chhatra League.

He, however, denied any gun battle took place.

Jonny accused Vice-chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman of unleashing Chhatra Dal and Shibir activists on them to taint the image of Chhatra League as well as the present government since the vice-chancellor was appointed by the last BNP-led government.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said Chhatra League activists locked in clashes due to their internal feud.

He said he heard shots being fired during the clashes.

He said police did not fire any bullets only lobbed 42 teargas canisters to disperse the students.

None was arrested, no arms were recovered and no case was filed as of filing of this report at 9:30pm.