

Nearly 100 students, cops hurt in campus violence at Jagannath University

Nearly 100 people, including 25 policemen, were injured in widespread student-police clashes amid demonstrations on the campus of Jagannath University in the capital's busy old-Dhaka area on Tuesday, reports UNB.

Police charged baton and fired a hail of 8 rubber bullets and 117 teargas shells to disperse the unruly students, police sources said. Eight of the agitating students were arrested from the scene.

Campus sources said some 5,000 students, mostly Chhatra League activists, led by its univer-

sity-unit general-secretary Gazi Abu Syed, staged demonstrations demanding reclamation of all the 12 residential halls from "illegal possession" of some activists of their rival Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

"Police clubbed the protestors to bring the situation under control when they, at one stage, tried to come out onto the nearby street at about 11:30am," says a spot account of the campus rioting, which falls in a chain of agitation in different universities in recent times.

Witnesses said when senior police officials went to the campus to discuss the matter with student leaders at about 12:45 pm, the angry demonstrators started hurling brickbats targeting the cops.

This triggered fresh flare-ups on the campus that looked like a veritable battlefield amid showers of brickbats and bursts of teargas shells.

"Police charged baton, lobbed teargas shells and fired from shotguns to disperse the unruly stu-

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100 students

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dents," the firsthand account of the clashes said.

Nearly 100 people, including 25 policemen, were injured. Ten of the injured students were treated at nearby National Medical College Hospital.

Violent students also ransacked the office of Vice-chancellor Prof Dr Abu Hossain Siddiqui and vandalized the door and window panes of the university by throwing brickbats.

Moreover, they damaged at least a dozen passing vehicles partially and ransacked 20 roadside shops during the marauding.

The activists of the JCD, the student wing of the former ruling-party BNP, had captured all the dormitories of the university during the past BNP-Jamaat rule, the sources said, narrating the episodes of possession and dispossession in student political arena.

Earlier, the VC had assured the students of getting the dorms vacated from the illegal possession when they had submitted a memorandum to him a few months back.