

50 injured in BCL infighting at JU

JU Correspondent

A RESIDENTIAL hall of Jahangirnagar University was rocked by gunshots during a series of clashes between two groups of the Awami league-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League on Monday, in which at least 50 students and an assistant proctor were injured.

The feuding groups used firearms, lethal weapons, hockey sticks and bamboo poles during the clashes in Al Beruni Hall for taking control of the dormitory, right in the presence of the

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The injured Chhatra League activists lie on the ground at Jahangirnagar University in Dhaka after a factional clash on the campus on Monday.

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university's vice-chancellor and top authorities.

The seriously injured students, including two with bullet wounds, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. They are Jayanta, Riel, Sabuj and Sohel of the Drama and Dramatics Department, Abid, Emil, Sokal, Bijoy and Amjad of the Bangla Department, and Tonmoy, Munna, Shafiq of the Environmental Science Department. Besides, Sohel, Shakil and Shimul of the History Department also sustained injuries.

A large contingent of law enforcers was deployed on the campus to prevent any untoward incident. The police, however, did not arrest anyone till the filing of this report at 8:00pm. Witnesses said that sheer panic gripped the general students during the factional clash that lasted for two hours.

The university authorities suspended 17 students on charge of their involvement in the clashes.

A release of the university said that the vice-chancellor suspended the 17 students and an emergency meeting of the syndicate approved the decision on Monday night.

The Chhatra League on Monday suspended 13

activists of its Jahangirnagar University unit after the clashes.

This was revealed by an official announcement, signed by BCL's president Mahmud Hasan Ripon and general secretary Mahfuzul Haidar Chowdhury Ratan, issued on Monday evening.

Those expelled from the BCL are Kazi Maruf Sajib, Bijoy Kumar Das, Parvez, Debabrata Prio Johnny, Ariful Haq, Khairul Bashar Shetu, Subhashish Kundu Tonyi, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Ujjal Kumar Das, Chayan, Shakal, Swadhin and Palash.

The BCL's central working committee also suspended all activities of its Jahangirnagar University unit in response to the violent clashes over control of Al-Beruni Hall, in which 12 student cadres were reportedly pushed off the roof of the four-storey dormitory.

Witnesses said that the clash erupted between the supporters of Rashedul Islam Shafin, president of the newly-formed JU unit of the BCL, and Nirjhor Alam Sammo in Al-Beruni Hall at about 9:00am. The clash later spread throughout the campus.

Shafin, along with his supporters, attacked the activists of Enayet Kabir Emil, who was backed by Sammo, while Emil's followers were beating up

Mostafa Manawar Sajib, a supporter of the Shafin group, in the hall.

The vice-chancellor of the university, Sharif Enamul Kabir, and members of the university's proctorial body rushed to the scene to bring the situation under control. Activists of the Shafin group, ignoring their presence, fired at least 12 shots.

They also assaulted the university's assistant proctor, Firoz-Ul-Hasan, when he went to take a student to the university's medical centre.

Shafin, the BCL JU unit's president, denied these allegations against him and told reporters, 'It was a silly matter caused by misunderstanding among BCL's activists.'

Sammo, secretary of the BCL's JU unit, told New Age, 'It was shameful that Shafin himself, in spite of being the president of a students' organization, and his supporters attacked the other group in the presence of the VC and other teachers.'

The BCL's new JU unit was constituted on May 19, about 15 months after the organisation's activities on the campus were suspended on 18 February, 2009 after violent clashes left at least 60 BCL activists injured.