

Tense situation still prevailing Over 50 injured in JCL, BCL, ICS clash in JU

Staff Correspondent

Tension is mounting at the Jagannath University campus and its surrounding areas following a series of clashes between two rival student groups since last three days.

At least 50 students were injured in a daylong joint attack by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists on the Jagannath

University campus on Monday.

The academic activities of the Jagannath University remained suspended for the three days due to unrest on the campus.

The clash erupted in a sequel to the Sunday's incident with the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) where BCL and JCD in a combined move launched an attack on the ICS cadres.

Monday's attack erupted when ICS activists brought out a procession to register their protest against Sunday's attack on them that left at least 50 students injured on Sunday, said an witness.

The clash ensued in a sequel to Saturday's incident when activists of BCL and JCD allegedly beat up Rabiul Islam, an activist of Chhatra

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Over 50 injured

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tra Shibir.

It is alleged that a group of BCL and JCD cadres, (the student wing of Awami League and Ruling BNP respectively) jointly attacked the procession at about 10 am on Monday.

About 20 students of Jagannath University College named Salauddin, Saiful Islam, Masum Billah, Harun-ur-Rashid, Nazrul Islam, Abdul Awal, Shakil Ahmed, Abul Karim, Rafiqul Islam, Enayet, Samim and Mostafa received serious injuries when both sides used lethal weapons and firearms during the attack.

Of the injured 12 were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where conditions of two students were stated to be critical.

A senior police official said that tension was running high at the Jagannath University campus for the third consecutive day. Monday when BCL and JCD together were locked in a series of clashes with the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), leaving over 50 students injured.

The violence triggered on the campus when some leaders of BCL and JCD chased an arms-wielding group of ICS on Sunday.

The situation worsened when some unidentified youths carrying illegal arms fired at least 25 rounds of shots during the chase and counter chase.

Meanwhile, medical sources said that conditions of at least 10 students, admitted to different city hospitals, including DMCH, Mirpur Hospital, National Hospital and some other clinics, were stated to be critical.

It is learnt that the clashes ensued when over 200 activists of the ICS, earlier driven away by the BCL and JCD, entered the campus, equipped with machetes, hockey sticks and other traditional weapons and created panic among the students.

To counter the ICS showdown, hundreds of leaders and activists of BCL and JCD brought out separate processions

Later, they were locked in clashes with the ICS cadres, fundamentalist student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Later, a heavy contingent of police led by senior officials rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control after hectic efforts for more than two hours.

At one stage the police baton charged indiscriminately and also lobbed over 20 rounds of teargas canister to disperse the warring students turning the campus into a mini-battle ground for two hours.

Leaders of the BCL and JCD alleged that police took part on the side of the ICS at the time of clashes. Police, however, denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, the ICS Sunday night filed a case with the Kotwali police station accusing 12 BCL leaders and activists of Sunday's clash. On the other hand, JCD and BCL still had not filed any case regarding Monday's action on the campus.

Earlier, on Saturday, BCL leaders Zahid and Imon and JCD leaders Arif and Kakon, in combined attacks, beat a Shibir worker, Rabiul, when he (Rabiul) was campaigning in favour of their party.

A huge contingent of police has been deployed on the campus to prevent any untoward situation.