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3 vehicles set on fire, 60 others damaged

50 injured in clashes with police on campus

By Our DU Correspondent

At least 50 persons including three police personnel were injured as activists of pro-Awami Chhatra League (S-P) fought pitched battle with police at different points of Dhaka University campus on Wednesday.

Unruly activists of BCL (S-P) set at least four motor vehicles on fire and damaged windshields of another 60 motor vehicles on DU campus. Police raided two student dormitories - Jagannath Hall and S.M Hall of the university and picked up 95 persons.

At least 100 rounds of gun shots were fired during the fierce battle that erupted at about 1:00 p.m. in the T.S.C. area.

According to eyewitnesses, tension gripped DU campus as two rival groups Jatiyalabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and BCL (S-P) brought out separate processions on the campus in the

morning.

Later, processionists of BCL (S-P) went to Bangla Academy to hoist black flags protesting the Prime Minister's planned visit to Bangla Academy in connection with the opening of the Amar Ekushey Book Fair today (Thursday).

When police on duty near Bangla Academy intercepted the procession of BCL, leaders and activists of BCL pelted brickbats at police personnel. Police later lobbed several rounds of tear gas canisters to disperse the Chhatra Leaguers.

Later, BCL activists while going towards Jagannath Hall set a private car bearing registration No: Dhaka-metro-bha-3588 and a rickshaw van on fire. They also damaged windshields of a number of vehicles near the Central Shaheed Minar.

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Campus clashes

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BCL processionists later came to Jagannath Hall and kept the east gate of the hall under lock and key.

When police and BDR personnel came to raid the Jagannath Hall, some activists of BCL from inside the hall fired gun shots, hurled hand bombs at law enforcing agency personnel. Police then broke open the gate and entered into the hall.

Police resorted to baton-charge when BCL activists tried to obstruct them from checking rooms of the hall. Police broke open the doors of several rooms locked from the inside.

Police also raided SM Hall of Dhaka University and picked up 95 persons from two halls.

At least 40 students were admitted in to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while

some left the hospital after taking the first aid.

Injured police personnel were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital. Meanwhile, BCL in a hurriedly called press conference at DU T.S.C. claimed that one of their activists Foton Chandra Sutradhar was beaten to death by police personnel during the raid of Jagannath Hall. But Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said that Foton was alive and in police custody at Ramna police station.

BCL leaders strongly condemned the police action on BCL leaders and activists and expressed their firm determination to resist Prime Minister's scheduled visit to Bangla Academy's book fair this morning.

Later, BCL activists brought out a procession in protest against the police action on BCL leaders and activists. They went to the Vice-Chancellor's residence and ransacked window panes of the residence.

Later, they set a private car bearing registration number Dhaka-Gha-1238 on fire adjacent to the VC's residence.

Meanwhile, proctor and all house tutors of Jagannath Hall have resigned from their re-

spective post, protesting police action on resident students of Jagannath Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

Besides, leaders of Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) in a press conference at DU officers club condemned the police action at Jagannath Hall in which at least 50 students of Jagannath Hall received injuries.

DUTA will bring out a silent procession on the campus today (Thursday) morning from the foot of Aparajeya Bangla protesting the Wednesday's incident.

DUTA called upon the DU authorities to shift all scheduled examinations to next week.

Some political parties condemned, what they said, police action on the students at Dhaka University campus on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Communist Party President Shahidullah Chowdhury and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Salim in a joint-statement said the repressive measures of the government will plunge the country into deep crisis and the government will be held responsible for it.

Central body of Left Democratic Front called upon government to cancel the election for bringing an end to present political crisis. JAGPA President Shafiqul Alam Pradhan in a statement held the government responsible for campus incident.