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VIOLENCE AT DU
Cops hunt for
armed cadres
8 JCD men, 300 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police last night launched a hunt for those involved in Monday's gunfight on Dhaka University campus. Earlier in the day, law enforcement and intelligence agencies had identified some 10 activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League who were photographed wielding firearms on the campus. Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told The Daily Star at around 12:45am, "We are on a drive to track them down." DMP sources said the police high command yesterday blasted the officials who were on duty on the campus during the clashes between JCD factions and did not take any measures to quell violence or arrest those carrying arms openly. Rapped by the home ministry, the police authorities asked top DMP officials including the DC-Ramna to arrest the culprits immediately.

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Cops hunt

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Talking to reporters in the afternoon, DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said he had already directed the police to scan the newspaper photographs and TV footage to identify the arms-toting cadres.

Meanwhile, the strike enforced by JCD at DU yesterday disrupted classes but did not hamper examinations, reports our university correspondent.

JCD, student wing of the opposition BNP, called the strike following the gun battle and injury of its President Sultan Salauddin Tuku on Monday.

All exams at the Arts Building and Curzon Hall were held on schedule. Presence of students on the campus however was thin and very few classes were held.

JCD will enforce strike tomorrow as well.

DU Exam Controller Bahulul Haque Chowdhury said all examinations tomorrow will go ahead as planned.

Chhatra Dal announced the programmes to protest Monday's violence for which they blame Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League.

Some 25 people including the DU proctor and JCD chief were injured in the fighting over places in the new central committee of JCD.

At least 50 rounds of bullet were fired and 20 hand-made bombs exploded during the gun battle.

On Monday night, Sub-inspector Mohammad Nasim Uddin of Shahbagh Police Station filed a case against eight JCD leaders including General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim and some 300 unknown people on charges of disrupting the university's academic atmosphere.

The accused include Shahidul Islam Babul, Amiruzzaman Khan Shimul, Anisur Rahman Khokon, Asaduzzaman Khan Polash, Tariqul Islam Titu, Ferdous Ahmed Munna and Mahbulul Alam Azam of the newly-formed central committee.

Nurul Islam, additional deputy commissioner (DMP-Ramna), told The Daily Star that the eight accused JCD leaders along with 200-300 activists and outsiders were engaged in the campus clashes.

In another development, DU syndicate, the highest decision-making body of the university, at an emergency meeting yesterday formed an eight-member committee headed by Pro-VC Harun-or-Rashid to probe the incident.

The committee will submit its report immediately, DU Vice-chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star.

The syndicate expressed concern over the clash and urged the government to ensure exemplary punishment to those responsible.

In support of the strike, a JCD leaders and activists brought out a procession and held a rally at

Teacher-Student Centre intersection at around 9:30am. DU unit Convener Abdul Matin led the procession.

At around 10:30am, they tried to enter the campus through Shahbagh entrance. But police barred them as most of them did not have DU identity card.

In protest at the strike, BCL men brought out a procession and held a rally on the campus.

KHALEDA'S STATEMENT
 BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned the attack on Tuku and other JCD leaders and blamed BCL for the incident.

In a statement, she said the ruling party men carried out the attack at a time when BNP was mobilising public opinion to wage a movement against the government for signing "anti-state deals" with India.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition in parliament, said Awami League had tortured BNP leaders and workers in the past and doing the same now.

She demanded punishment to the attackers.

VC'S BRIEFING
 Talking to reporters at 1:00pm at his office, VC Arefin Siddique refuted JCD's allegation that he did not co-operate with the student body.

"It seems the incident was part of a conspiracy to make the campus situation unstable and volatile," he added.

There was no disruption to academic activities in last one year. "Now why the students are being held hostage in the name of strike over an incident between activists of one organisation?" he asked.

The BCL at a press conference at Madhur Canteen yesterday denied the allegation of its involvement in the JCD factional clashes. They claimed JCD President Sultan Salauddin Tuku brought in "professional killers" on Monday to ruin the campus's congenial atmosphere.