

Students or rogues?

JCD, Shibir take on BCL men at Islamic University over petty matter

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

At least 40 people were injured as activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed with those of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Islamic University yesterday.

During the fight, Shibir and JCD activists vandalised the university's administrative building and two cars, and torched six motorcycles, the IU proctor alleged.

Eyewitnesses said tension began to boil over after Chhatra League activist Russell Joarder and some others beat up JCD activist Anifur Rahman Jony on the campus around 10:30am.

About an hour before that, Russell and Jony had an altercation over a trifling matter at Seikhpara Bazar near the campus. Both the youths hail from Basantapur village in Shaikupura upazila of Jhenidah.

Proctor Jahangir Hossain tried to defuse the tense situation through talks with leaders of the rival groups at his office, but failed.

Later, the BCL activists chased the JCD men to Saddam Hossain Hall. Around noon, they attacked the dormitory, triggering a four-hour clash.

Both sides fired blank shots and blasted cocktails.

At one stage, activists of Shibir, student body associated with Jamaat-e-Islami, came out of the hall, a stronghold of the organisation, and joined hands with the JCD men and attacked the BCL activists.

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In the face of the attack, the BCL men retreated and took shelter at the administrative building, but the JCD-Shibir men attacked them there as well.

Some 40 student leaders and activists were injured in the clash. Three of them were admitted to the university medical centre.

Ziauddin, a former BCL activist and now an employee of the university, was sent to Kushtia Medical College Hospital as his condition worsened.

Additional police forces have been deployed on the campus to fend off further trouble.

Meanwhile, the IU authorities have formed a six-member committee to investigate the incident.

Three cases have been filed against 100 JCD and Shibir men for damaging university property.