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BCL-Shibir-Police clash in RU: 30 hurt

Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov. 25.—At least 30 students including the Assistant Commissioner of Matihar Zone and Officer-in-Charge of Matihar thana of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) were injured twelve of them seriously in a triangular clash that ensued between the workers of Islami Chhatra Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) and police on Rajshahi University campus on Monday midnight.

Thirteen injured persons were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) with bullet injuries. They are Ali Ahmed (24), Mominkul Islam (25), Abdus Salam (21) and the rest were police personnel including the Assistant Police Commissioner Firoz Khan Noon, Matihar OC Shamsuddin, Sub-Inspector Abul Hashem, Habilder Abul Kashem, constable Enamul Haque Ruhidas Roy and Muktar Hossain and the students—Sohrab, Maniruzzaman, Tahazuddin and Ali Hassan.

Campus sources said, the clash between the workers of the two student organisations erupted when the BCL workers brought out a procession inside the university's Shamsuzzoha Hall in support of their council meeting to be held on the campus on November 27 at about 11.45 at (Monday's) night. When the processionists were parading on the verandah of the hall chanting various provocative slogans against the Shibir activists, the ICS workers got locked in an altercation with them that led to a chase and counter chase between them. At one stage, when police rushed to the spot to tackle the situation the ICS activists also got locked in a fierce clash with the police. At this stage BCL workers were ousted from the hall and within a short time they reorganised themselves and entered the hall.

Both the warring groups used fire arms, bombs and cocktails during the five-hour long clash. Police immediately failed to bring the situation under control in which the AC and OC were injured. In the meantime the clash spared to Habibur Rahman Hall, Latif Hall Shahmukhadum Hall and Ameer Ali Hall and the places turned into a mini-battle field. The general residential students started to run helter and skelter for safety and they passed the night without sleep.

Later, the BDR personnel were informed and they rushed to the scene and brought the situation

under control by lobbing 50 rounds of teargas shells and firing a good number of blank shots at about 5.15 in the morning. Police picked up 24 students from the university's halls and adjacent student messes today in connection with the last night's incident.

Meanwhile, different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal separately brought-out procession on the campus protesting the incident.

Islami Chhatra Shibir of RU unit in a Press statement vehemently condemned the incidents and blamed the BCL workers for the incidents.

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) also vehemently condemned the incident and demanded punishment of those responsible for the incident.

Rajshahi University Authorities in a Press statement have sought full cooperation from cross sections of people to bring the normalcy in the campus.