

CU CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured at Chittagong University yesterday when two compartment-based BCL groups of the university shuttle train repeatedly clashed on the campus following a trifling matter.

Police fired 50 shotgun rounds and 20 tear gas shells to bring the situation under control, said Officer-in-Charge (Investigation) of Hathazari Police Station Abul Kashem. In the violence, a police constable was wounded after being accidentally hit by shotgun pellets.

Witnesses said the clash took place after some members of the Sixty Nine group beat up an activist of the Varsity Xpress (VX) group following an altercation over a trifle.

About 200 students from the two sides initially clashed in front of the arts faculty and later at the campus railway station. They carried knives, iron rods and tree branches. The clashes left 11 of the VX activists and

four Sixty Nine members wounded.

Assistant Proctor Anowar Chowdhury said the condition of the four of the injured—Imon being stabbed and Rabbi, Akash, and Durjoy being struck by shotgun pellets—were critical. They are being treated at different private clinics in Chittagong city.

CU-BCL Office Secretary Jalaluddin blamed the clashes on the Sixty Nine led by CU BCL General Secretary MA Khaled Chowdhury and Organising Secretary Alamgir Tipu, but both of them denied involvement in those.

Proctor Dr Khan Md Towhid Osman said they would take action if any of the injured filed a complaint. No case was lodged in this connection.

The VX is operated by CU BCL President Mamunul Hoque, a loyalist of Chittagong city Awami League President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and the Sixty Nine is led by CU BCL General Secretary Khaled, a follower of the city AL leader AJM Nasir Uddin.