

30 hurt, 9 held as BCL attack JCD at IU

IU Correspondent

AT LEAST 30 people, including two journalists, were injured and six busses, and an ambulance vandalised as ruling Awami League-backed student organisation attacked a procession of the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal at Islamic University in Kushtia.

The injured were admitted at the university medical centre and Kushtia Sadar Hospital.

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The police arrested eight Chhatra Dal activists including its university unit president Omar Faruque.

Witnesses said that the Chhatra Dal activists brought out a procession on the campus at about 10:30am protesting against the Chhatra League's attack on the university teachers on Saturday.

Chhatra Dal activists also rallied in front of the administrative building, defying the ban imposed on Thursday morning by the university authority on any rally or procession on the campus.

Chhatra League activists led by Bangabandhu hall unit president Saiful Islam and university unit organiz-

ing secretary Rasel Joarder attacked the rally and chased the Chhatra Dal men from the campus.

A group of the Chhatra Dal activists, including its university unit president Omar Faruque, took shelter at the teachers' dormitory. The Chhatra League activists vandalised the dormitory and attacked them.

Later, proctor AHM Zilur Rahman rescued them with the help of IU thana police, who arrested Omar Faruque, university unit JCD joint secretary Ripon, joint sports secretary Arif and activists Monir, Mahatab, Anis, Aminul and a university employee Hassan.

Chhatra Dal activists, how-

ever, regrouped later, demonstrated outside the campus. They vandalised a university ambulance at about noon on Kushtia-Khulna highway leaving three injured.

The injured were bdnews24 university reporter SM Rony, New Age IU correspondent AK Kajol and statistics dept third year student Marif.

As the Chhatra Dal activists tried to enter the campus at about 1:00pm, the Chhatra League activists chased them triggering a clash, in which at least seven rounds of gunshots were heard and seven busses were vandalised.

At least 16 Chhatra League men, including IU unit vice-president Towfiqur Rahman,

joint secretary Mahmud Hassan, Bangabandhu Hall unit president Saiful Islam, Halim and Abu Jar Gifary Gaffar, and about 14 Chhatra Dal activists, including IU unit secretary Rashedul Islam, office secretary Shahed Ahmed and joint secretary Sabbir, were injured in the clash.

IU unit Chhatra League president Jahangir Hosain said that they protested Chhatra Dal activists, for trying to create violence on the campus holding rally and procession defying ban.

IU unit JCD secretary said that the BCL men attacked their rally without any provocation. He demanded release of the arrested JCD leaders immediately.