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50 hurt in BCL-JCD clash in Sirajganj

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AT LEAST 50 people including 10 law-enforcers were injured in sporadic clashes between Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyotabadi Chhatra Dal activists and supporters on Sirajganj Government University College premises and in the adjoining areas on Saturday.

Police lobbed more than a hundred teargas shells and fired rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

More than 25 activists of the Awami League-backed BCL and 15 of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-backed JCD were injured in the fray. Of them, BCL Sirajganj Govt University College unit president Arfa Rahman Hirok and Jubo League member Hossain Ali were admitted to Avicenna

General Hospital with critical injuries. Besides, BCL members Zia, Rocky, Jewel, Sohan, Emran, Rahmat, Jahangir, Anwar, Liton, Kamrul, Nasib, and Rimon were treated at different local clinics, while JCD activists Salam, Babur Rashed, Tuku, Ripon, and Gopal were taken to Sirajganj General Hospital.

Sources said the clashes took place over establishing supremacy on the college campus.

They said when a group of JCD activists started to chant slogans against the ruling AL and the BCL at about 11:30am on the campus, some BCL men led by Arfa Rahman opposed them, sparking the clashes. The two groups fought with brick bats, rods, sticks, and others weapons.

A contingent of police on

information rushed to the spot and lobbed more than a hundred tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets but failed to bring the situation under control, when Rapid Action Battalion personnel joined in with them and took control of the situation at about 1:30pm.

BCL district unit president Md Asaduz Zaman Sohel blamed the JCD for creating chaos on the college campus deliberately.

JCD district unit convenor Anower Hossain Rajesh, on the other hand, alleged the BCL men bit some non-partisan students when they went to fill up some forms for sitting the honours examinations in the morning. When the students protested the assault, Anower said, a group of JCD activists backed by police locked in clashes with the BCL men.