



Activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhata League and pro-Jamaat Islami Chhata Shibir clash on Islamic University campus in Kushtia yesterday, above, one of the clashes brandish a firearm, left

BCL-Shibir clash closes IU, 40 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Islamic University (IU) was yesterday closed for seven days following a clash between activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhata League (BCL) and pro-Jamaat Islami Chhata Shibir on the campus that left at least 40 people injured. Students have been asked to vacate halls by 10:00am today.

During the clash, both the groups exchanged around 20 bullets and biased around 50 cocktails. Meanwhile, police fired 30 rounds blank shots to disperse the rival groups, said Kushtia Additional Superintendent of Police Sohel Reza.

IU campus sources said the clash erupted when a group of the university unit BCL activists asked a group of Shibir activists not to distribute copies of a memorandum among general students before the IU administrative building around 11:30am.

Earlier, the Shibir activists submitted the memorandum to IU Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Hakim putting several demands including taking additional classes to remove session jam.

IU unit Shibir President Asad Ullah said the clash ensued as BCL activists intercepted them to distribute the memorandum. Additional police forces have been deployed to avoid further clash.

IU unit BCL leader Asiqur Rahman Japan said they intercepted the Shibir activists as they were trying to destabilise the campus education atmosphere.

If Shibir want to press home their demands, they should place it only to the university authorities, he said.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus. Additional police forces have been deployed to avoid further clash.