

20 injured as BCL factions clash at JNU 38 expelled

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At least 20 activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and an assistant proctor were injured during a string of clashes between two BCL groups over establishing supremacy at Jagannath University (JNU) yesterday.

Soon after clash, BCL's JNU unit president and general secretary at a press conference expelled 38 of their activists and cautioned another against anti-organisational activities.

Campus sources said the clashes took place between groups led by JNU unit president Ripon and its general secretary Khokan around 11:00am near the Arts building.

Farhad, Masud and Shariful were critically injured in the incident and rushed to nearby Sumana Clinic. They were later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, sources added.

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20 injured

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The injured include Robin, Imran, Shaon, Rajib, Shohel, Shafique, Babar and Biddyt of Ripon group and Sumon, Nandi, Sharif, Maksud and Arif of Khokan group, BCL sources said.

BCL activists from both groups swooped on with iron rods, sticks and sharp weapons and threw brickbats at each other during the two-hour long chases and counter chases.

The clash, at one stage, spread outside the campus when Ripon group attacked Khokan group at nearby Bahadur Shah Park, where the latter took shelter.

BCL sources said the incident had its origin in the BCL clashes on April 4 that left 12 injured.

Police brought the situation under control charging truncheon, campus sources added.

The university had been closed for at least one month following a series of clashes involving BCL men in last three months, college sources said.

BCL men engaged in a fresh factional fight at JNU within a week of Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's distancing herself from the BCL over

continuous BCL clashes at several educational institutions since her party assumed power.

While contacted BCL central unit general secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury told The Daily Star that he was not well informed about the incident. The central unit however urged law-enforcement agencies to take stern action against those involved in the incident regardless which party they belonged to, he added.

Meanwhile, university authorities formed a four-member probe committee headed by Dean of Arts Faculty Prof Lutfar Rahman.

Classes and examinations were cancelled following the clashes.