

CMC closed sine die: dorms vacated Shibir men attack JCD activists: over 20 hurt

Chittagong Bureau

CHITTAGONG, July 11: - Chittagong Medical College (CMC) has been declared closed for indefinite period after a series of predawn fierce clashes reportedly between the workers of the student, front-Islamic Shibir of Jamaat and Jatiyatababade, Chhatra Dal of BNP Academic Council of the college in a predawn emergency meeting today finalized the decision and asked the students to vacate the dormitories by this afternoon. The meeting also postponed all ongoing examinations until next announcement.

Four dormitories barring the foreigner's one have already been vacated and students moved away to the safer places before the time of dispatching this report. The foreign students will also quit the dorm as quickly as possible.

Adequate armed security people backed by Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) have been deployed

in and around the college campus to avert recurrence of clash and safe exit of the resident students.

Earlier, the workers of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the BNP, and Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), locked into clashes over possession of seat at the main gents hostel.

The clash ensued at about 10:50 p.m. when the Jamaat-e-Islami backed ICS workers together with their hired goons attacked some of the JCD workers who had allegedly been ousting a ICS worker from the dorm.

The attackers vandalized dozens of the JCD worker's rooms at different dorms and assaulted the students indiscriminately. They also torched the books and valuables at the rooms forcing the JCD workers to get unite and resort counter attacks.

More than 50 rooms of owned

by the workers of the warring groups were damaged during the melee that lasted until the intervention of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) at 2:40 a.m.

More than 20 students of the both groups including some outsiders suffered wounds in the clashes. Supporters of the warring groups freely used lethal weapons. There were sounds of blank shots, witnesses claimed.

Security people nabbed three students from the spot while majority managed to escape police pick up.

The detainees were identified as Jahangir Alam, 5th year MBBS student, Nafiz Alam, 3rd year MBBS student and Paritosh Das, 5th year MBBS student of Barisal Medical College. Political affiliation of the detainees could not be known immediately.

Though the teachers of the

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medical college rushed the trouble spot shortly after the outbreak of the incident, they could not even enter the dorms because of the frenzy.

The frenzy also created panic in and around the hospital and the establishments nearby the college dorms. The round-the-clock pharmacies around the medical college had to pull their shutters down.

Ten of the 20 wounded students fled the trouble spot after taking first aid from the hospital while some went to nearby private clinics.

Three fatally wounded have been admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Police and college sources identified them as Delwar Hossain, Saiful Islam and Monirul Haq.

Senior police officials visited the trouble spot and later set together with the leaders of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir separately. Panchlaish police recorded a case in connection with the incident. The detainees had been placed under police interrogation till the time of writing this report.