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VC confined, DU Proctor's resignation demanded, classes, exams boycotted from today: tension continues on campus JCD activists attack students at Fine Arts Instt : 50 hurt

DU Correspondent

At least 50 students of Dhaka University, mostly female were injured in a series of attack by the leaders and activists of ruling BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Fine Arts Institute on Sunday noon.

The unruly JCD activists led by its DU unit President Hasan Mamon and General Secretary Shaiful Islam Firoz beat up the stu-

dents indiscriminately when they were staging a sit-in protest in front of the Director's room of Fine Arts Institute.

During the attack the JCD cadres threw down two students to ground floor from the first floor of the institute and harassed some female students.

The JCD cadres also kicked at the lower abdomen of a female

student causing severe bleeding. The injured students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and other private clinics in the city.

Some Dhaka University Correspondents of different dailies and news agencies including Riazul Islam of Manabjamin, Adnan Farhad of UNB, Mazharul Anwar Shipu of Janakantha were also

injured by the JCD cadres.

General students confined Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof. SMA Faiz and Proctor AK Firoz in the Director's room of Fine Arts Institute for three hours by disconnecting electricity and water supply line.

With the help of some teachers of the institute VC Prof. Faiz came out from the Director's room. JCD leaders and activists cordoned the VC and Proctor at that time.

Some left leaning organisation accused DU Vice-Chancellor and Proctor of the attack on general

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JCD activists

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students. They claimed that Vice-Chancellor and Proctor directed the JCD leaders and activists to attack the general students and the JCD cadres led the attack in presence of VC and Proctor.

They demanded immediate resignation of VC and Proctor accusing them of inciting the attack on the students.

Following the incidents, a nine-member probe committee was formed headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof. AFM Yusuf Halder in an emergency meeting of the University Syndicate on Sunday evening. The committee was asked to submit its report within seven days.

According to sources, the DU campus was rocked by violence on Saturday following the death of Shamme Akhter Happy, a third-year student of Psychology department and resident of Rokeya Hall, in a road accident at Shahbag intersection.

Over 100 students were injured in clashes with police following the death on Saturday. Police stormed into the Fine Arts Institute when protestors damaged vehicles and pelted stone on the law-enforcers.

Students of Rokeya Hall

"The attackers used branches of trees to beat us," said one of the students injured seriously in the attack.

The rescuers punched and kicked the students mercilessly and pushed some of them down from the 1st-floor verandah, leaving at least two seriously injured, witnesses said.

The injured included Abu Raihan, leader of the Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Janardan Datta Nanto, President of the Front's DU unit, and general students Tapu, Bobby, Luvina, Mita, Shumi, Farhad, Sohag, Mila, Akash, Akram, Shaheen, Asad, Malay, Lubhna, Aziz Hasan, Tabassum, Pritom and Shovo.

Abu Raihan was undergoing operation in the operation theatre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital as he suffered serious injuries in his head and belly. One leg of Akram Hossain was fractured as he was pushed down from the 1st floor of the institute building.

Witnesses said a group of JCD activists, including Maksud, a resident of Jashimuddin Hall, and Helal of Ziaur Rahman Hall attacked Shipu and Riaz, university Correspondents of Manabjamin and Janakantha respectively leaving them injured.

brought out a procession on the campus on Sunday morning protesting the death of Happy, who was a resident student of the hall.

Following the procession, they gathered inside the Fine Arts Institute where leaders and activists of some left leaning students were staging demonstration protesting the Saturday's police attack on them. Students of Fine Arts Institute also joined them.

At that time Vice Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz came to the Fine Arts building along with Proctor AK Firoz to hold talks with the agitated students. At one stage of altercation the students confined the VC and Proctor in the Director's room of the institute and cut the electricity and water supply of the room.

The students staging demonstration in front of the room demanded resignation of DU Proctor accusing him of inciting the Saturday's police attack on the general students.

Hearing about the holdup, the JCD activists made a foray into the institute compound attacking the students and journalists at random at 1 pm while trying to rescue the VC and the Proctor.

They said the JCD activists attacked the journalists while they were questioning VC Prof. SMA Faiz.

The VC and the Proctor walked out of the Director's chamber as the panicked students quit the scene in the face of what they called barbaric attack.

Some students said Dr Faiz and Dr AK Firoz sent 'SOS' to the pro-government student leaders several times over mobile phone after they were held hostage.

The agitated students later gathered at Central Shahid Minar. They urged the students to boycott classes and examinations from today (Monday) protesting the attack and demanding resignation of VC and Proctor.

They also demanded to rename the road through TSC to Shahbag after Shamme Akhter Happy, arrest and punishment of the JCD cadres who led the attack on the general students.

They will stage a teachers-students solidarity rally at the Aporajeyo Bangla at 10.30 am today (Monday) in support of their demands.