

## Beltola limping back to normalcy



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The situation in the city is limping back to normalcy a day after a string of violence in the Beltola area of the city where several people are feared killed besides as many as two hundred injured.

The district administration has relaxed curfew from 8 in the morning till 8 in the evening it clamped on Saturday at the height of the clash between a section of the Assam Adivashi Students Association activists and some local residents.

Moreover, the Assam Government has sounded red alert to beef up security arrangement to prevent the incidents from dispersing to upper Assam districts.

Stunned by the public criticism for lapse in law and order situation, Chief Minister has ordered a high level inquiry into the incident. Official sources have confirmed that Additional Chief Secretary PP Verma has been asked to probe the incident and to submit report as soon as possible.

Mr Gogoi strongly condemned the clash and announced an ex-gratia grant of Rs.1 lakh to the next of kin of the person killed in the incident and Rs 50 each to the seriously injured.

The Adivashi students body has given a 36 hour bandh call on Monday from 5 in the morning till 5 in the evening on Tuesday in protest against the violence which they claim 16 people have been left dead.

The death toll is contradictory. The Assam Government has claimed that one person died in the hospital but the protestors here said they have lost 16 activists in the violence. Speaking to Assam Times, some activists of the AASA cleared the fact the figure of dead person might be contradictory as some of these people are still remaining untraced.

“Our people are mercilessly beaten up by the local residents, left on the streets with blood, not attended by police to rush to the hospital, some were rescued from the drains, some critically injured people are not in the hospital but untraced,” they said.

Meanwhile, several organizations and political parties are back on the scene charging the government with failure to maintain law and order in this tiny city area at a stone’s throw distance from the power center. Asom Gana Parishad, Asom Gana Parishad (Pragatisheel), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), All Assam Students Union have condemned the incident and demand a high level probe into it.

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