

A Correspondent

Manikganj: At least 50 people were injured as police fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse a crowd demonstrating for gas connection in the district town on Tuesday.

Police and witnesses said thousands of people, including women, converged on Bijoy Mela ground in the town from 10am to lay siege to Makinganj Titas Gas office demanding gas connection.

The clash occurred when police obstructed a stick-procession brought out by the local people in their bid to cordon off the Titas Gas office.

At one stage, police charged batons on the crowd and also fired rubber bullets and teargas shells to disperse them, injuring 50 people, including Manikganj Municipality mayor Ramjan Ali and a local journalist.

Nine of the injured, including Ramjan Ali, were rushed to Sadar Hospital and three others who sustained bullet injuries to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Angered by the police action, Poura Nagorik Samaj called a daylong hartal for Wednesday in the municipality area.

Meanwhile, a sub-inspector was injured in an attack by the protesters in the town in the afternoon.

In another development, vehicles went off the road and shops kept their shutters down on Tuesday evening in the run-up to the hartal.

Assistant police super of Manikganj Quamrul Islam said at least 11 policemen including two sub-inspectors, were injured during the clash.

A tense situation was prevailing in the town following the incident. Additional police have been deployed to avert further trouble.