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BCL groups clash for control of DU halls

By DU Correspondent

At least ten people were injured when two groups of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed for gaining control of the Zahurul Haq Hall, Mohsin Hall and A F Rahman Hall of Dhaka University yesterday morning, witnesses said.

Five shots were heard during the clashes. The rival groups

used chapatti and other lethal weapons during the clashes. Twelve rooms were also damaged in the three dormitories.

Seven of the injured persons were identified as Milan, Kazal, Kader, Manik, Tofael, Masud, Raihan, most of them struck with chapatti, witnesses said.

Kader, a BCL activist of Mohsin

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Hall got one of his legs fractured when he jumped from the first floor of the hall. Other injured persons could not be identified immediately.

On-duty police raided the halls to quell the violence and arrested five persons from Zahurul Haq Hall. The arrested persons are Ali Hossain, Obaed Ripon, Abdul Latif, Saiful Islam and Kamrul Ahsan.

The clashes ensued when activists of a faction, ousted from the three halls on November 3, made a swoop to regain control.

The activists, divided into three groups and allegedly led by Babul Talukdar, Amirul Islam Ratan and Shawkat Hossain Nannu attacked the Zahurul Haq Hall, A F Rahman Hall and Mohsin Hall simultaneously at about 8 am.

They were ousted earlier by activists of the faction led by Shamim Ahmed.

The activists belonging to Shamim faction fled from the halls following the attack. Witnesses said that the armed men while leaving Zahurul Haq Hall fired five shots. Some activists who could not flee were beaten.

But the 'invaders' could retain their control of the halls till about 11 am when police raided the halls. Police arrested five persons from Zahurul Haq Hall while others managed to escape.

Following the police raid, some activists belonging to Shamim group, who are students of the university, returned to the halls showing their identity cards to police. They again took control of the halls, witnesses said. Talking to The Daily Star, some BCL leaders at the university alleged that top leaders of the organisation were responsible for the factional fight.

BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, when contacted said that the "terrorists" who were creating disturbances at the DU dormitories did not belong to BCL. "BCL do not believe in the politics of hall capture," he said.

But the sources claimed that some members of the BCL Central Committee were seen taking "active part" in recent incidents involving capture of halls at Dhaka University.