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Gunbattle between BCL factions

Varsity Correspondent

A fierce gunbattle occurred between the two feuding groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) on Dhaka University campus creating panic among the inmates of the campus on Saturday noon.

The clash was a sequel to an incident of Dhaka College in which the Mantoo faction captured the International Hostel on Saturday ousting the rival Gopalganj-Barisal group. Dhaka College sources said members of Mantoo faction launched an attack on BCL Gopalganj-Barisal group on Saturday morning and forced them to leave the college campus. The attackers opened several rounds of gunshots. Panic-stricken students ran helter-skelter for safety.

Immediately after the incident of Dhaka College, the ousted group took shelter in Salimullah Hall of Dhaka University. Mantoo group which earlier captured the Zahirul Haq Hall, launched an armed attack against the opponents residing in Salimullah Hall at about 11.30 a.m.

Sharply came the response and both the sides fired from cut rifles and pistols, witnesses said.

Some 100 gunshots were said to have been traded in about 54 minutes, virtually turning the two residential halls into shooting ranges.

None, however, was reported injured.

Police, posted earlier in front of the gates of the two halls, did not intervene. Residents of the hall

See Page 10 Col. 7

Gunbattle

(From Page 1 Col. 5)

alleged that the gunmen were shooting in close distance from the police.

Campus sources said the lives of teachers, students and employees of these two dormitories had become insecure due to frequent factional clash between the two groups of BCL since May 27.

Dhaka College Chhatra Sangsad V.P. Mir Nawaj Ali and General Secretary Md. A. Awal Khan in a joint statement protested the gunbattle between the two rival factions of BCL on the college campus and demanded punishment of the terrorists.

220