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Gunbattle between BCL factions rocks DU

Varsity Correspondent

Two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (M-I) exchanged hundred rounds of gunshots to establish their control over the Dhaka University campus on Saturday.

The feuding groups chased each other armed with lethal weapons which caused further deterioration of campus situation.

Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shells and chased the feuding groups to bring the situation under control.

At least 10 students received mild injury as they ran helter skelter for safety.

The trouble erupted at about 11:15 a.m. when a procession of BCL (M-I) became face to face with the rally of BCL Mantu faction near the Aparajeo Bangla.

BCL Mantu faction went to the campus in a procession from Zahirul Haq Hall and held a rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla after parading the campus.

At that time a militant procession brought out by BCL (M-I) from Madhu's canteen and it marched towards the Aparajeo Bangla where the rally of Mantu faction was in progress. Tracing the large attendant procession of BCL (M-I) the activists of Mantu tried to flee from the venue but however, chased by some BCL (M-I) supporters. At a stage BCL (M-I) captured the foot of Aparajeo Bangla and held a rally. BCL (M-I) Dhaka University unit President Pankuji Debnath while addressing the rally, several rounds of shots opened from the direction of Administrative Building.

Sharp came the response from the direction of Aparajeo Bangla and both sides fired from cut-rifle, sten-guns and other lethal weapons.

Some 100 rounds of gunshots said to have been traded by the warring groups, virtually turning the whole campus into a mini battle field for an

hour.

At a stage, the Mantu faction fled Zahirul Haq Hall in the face of a strong counter-offensive.

Police posted in front of Madhu's canteen and V-C's house rushed to the spots and also chased the feuding groups. They also lobbed teargas shells to disperse the mob.

Some students received mild injury while running helter skelter for safety.

After the gunbattle, BCL (M-I) again organised a rally in front of the Madhu's canteen which was addressed by BCL Secretary Iqbalur Rahman, joint Secretary Iqbal Hossain, DU unit President K H M Lizu and General Secretary Pankuji Debnath.

They blamed government backed armed elements for attacking the rally of BCL and called the students to stand against the campus terrorism.

JCD blames BCL for campus violence

Immediately after the incident Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a procession in protest against the terrorists activities of BCL on the campus.

It held a rally in front of the DUCSU building which was addressed by JCD General Secretary Elias Ali and DU unit General Secretary Ali Akkas Nadim.

They accused BCL (M-I) continuing campus violence and said when the democratically elected government were taking steps to eliminate campus violence. The BCL (M-I) continuing its atrocities in the educational institutions including Dhaka University.

They called upon the democratic students organisations to resist the BCL's terrorism.