

Gunbattle on DU campus

Staff Reporter

Gunmen raided the Ziaur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University creating a reign of terror by firing over one hundred rounds last night, eyewitnesses and residents of the hall said.

The incident took place as a sequel to an internal conflict in a student organisation, said to be Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). None was, however, reported injured.

Some of the rooms of the hall were damaged and two motor cycles were torched near the hall during the incident. One of the motor bikes belongs to Mantazur Rafiq, vice-president of the Zia Hall Students Union and JCD leader, while the other belongs to a member of the WASA staff who was then passing by the hall.

Eyewitnesses narrated the incident as: the attackers armed with sten guns, shot-guns and pistols from the Mohsin Hall, a stronghold of JCD, surrounded the Zia Hall and started firing

gunshots indiscriminately into the hall at about 8-30 pm.

Soon after, their rival group also counter-fired from inside the hall. At one stage gunmen

Contd on page 8 col 4

Arrested students produced in court

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Police yesterday produced before the court all the 18 students arrested during Monday's clash between rival students in the Science Laboratory area in the city.

The arrested students are from different educational institutions including Dhaka University, Dhaka College, City College, Suhrawardi College and Mirpur Technical Institute.

Monday's clash ensued when a students procession allegedly tried to raid the City College as a sequel to a clash on Sunday

Contd. on page 8 col 5

DU campus

Contd from page 1
firing from inside the hall stopped firing and fled the hall.

Two more groups of armed youths also surrounded the nearby Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and the Kabi Jasimuddin Hall during the half-an-hour drama. The students of the Zia Hall ran helter-skelter for safety. Some of them were later seen leaving the campus with their belongings.

While visiting the spot at 9.30 last night this correspondent found a tense situation prevailing in the area and student leaders of all the three halls whispering at the gates of the halls.

After the incident, police restricted vehicular traffic in the Elephant Road adjacent to the Zia Hall.

On Monday night two rival groups of JCD clashed when two workers, one from each side, were beaten up and three rounds of shots were fired. No policeman was seen in or around the campus during the clash.

When contacted, police confirmed the incident, but failed to give the details.

At one minute past zero hours police reported gunfire rocking the Mirpur Road near the Government New Market. But it was not known who had used the guns.

After repeated attempts to contact the Vice-Chancellor of the university, attendants at his residence told The New Nation at 11.30 pm that Prof. Abdul Mannan had already retired to bed and would not answer newsmen's queries.