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Gunbattle between BCL factions

A laundry employee was injured critically when two factions of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League fought a gunbattle at Dhaka University on Wednesday, reports UNB.

A bullet struck the left chest of Akhter Hossain Kajol (30) in front of his laundry in the Zahirul Huq Hall premises at about 1.10 p.m. amidst a fierce clash between the 'Gopalganj group' and the 'Montu group' of BCL, witnesses and police said.

He was rushed to the Chest Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali in critical condition.

Kajol came from Matlab thana in Comilla only on Tuesday and joined the laundry.

Some 100 gunshots were said to have been traded in about 40 minutes, virtually turning two residential halls into shooting ranges after a week of lull.

The trouble erupted with an armed

attack allegedly by the activists of Gopalganj group from Salimullah Hall at about 1.10 p.m. against their 'enemies' in the Montu faction entrenched in Zahirul Huq Hall.

Sharp came the response, and both the sides fired cut-rifle, stengun and SMG, witnesses said.

At a stage, the Gopalganj group fled Salimullah Hall in the face of a strong counter-offensive. (Their allies in the Barisal group, the third faction in BCL, marched towards Salimullah Hall from Jagannath Hall to help them, but couldn't advance as police blocked Fuller Road.)

Police tried to enter Zahirul Huq Hall, but failed as the activists locked the collapsible gates.

Zahirul Huq Hall Students' Union General Secretary Masum Ahmed told UNB the lives of teachers, students and employees of his dormitory had become insecure due to

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Gunbattle

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frequent attacks by their rivals.

The Gopalganj group militants, however, blamed the Montu group for Wednesday's trouble.

Residents of Salimullah Hall alleged that the gunmen were shooting in close distance from police.

Fresh schedule

During the gunfight, campus inmates and passers-by were seen running helter-skelter for safety. Motor vehicles geared up to escape damage, but damaged some rickshaws at Plessey, Fuller Road and Nilkhet while speeding away.

Meanwhile, DU authorities announced on Wednesday, fresh schedules for Honours and Masters examinations. The examinees said they could not give attention to their studies because of violence and tension.

A Masters examinee who resides in Salimullah Hall said he couldn't carry on his studies properly owing to disturbance by "armed hoodlums and outsiders".

"I am always in high tension. I can't say when a bullet hits in my room", said another resident of the West Block of Salimullah Hall who is an Honours examinee.

Tension gripped the entire campus, as militants also remained on guard at the gates and rooftops of the three troubled halls.