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Fierce gunbattle on campus

Ctg Medical College closed sine die

CHITTAGONG, Aug. 9.—Chittagong Medical College was closed today for an indefinite period after a fierce gunbattle between two rival groups of students, reports UNB.

Residents were asked to vacate their dormitories by five this (Monday) evening as tension gripped the campus following the pre-dawn fighting between militants of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League (M-I).

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Academic Council of the college held with Principal Nur Jahan Bhuiyan in the chair.

Police arrested 10 people for their alleged involvement in the campus violence and also hauled up huge arms and ammunition in raids on the student hostels. One stengun, one pipegun, one wireless set, 100 bullets, 12 kiriches, 12 hockey sticks and huge cocktails were netted in the swoop, police said.

Sources said at least 200 gunshots and sporadic blasts rocked the campus as the student activists of ruling

BNP and opposition Awami League fought for seat capturing.

Some 50 hostel rooms were ransacked and burnt during the two-hour long encounter.

None was, however, reported hurt in the clash, as the rivals fought from safe sides.

Witnesses said trouble erupted at 2 am following dispute over a hostel seat between two students. A group of students along with outsiders, reportedly belonging to JCD, made an attack on the sleeping students in a bid to capture the hostel.

The rowdy attackers set fire to different rooms and started damaging doors and windows of the hostel.

Police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. They picked up eight Chhatra Leaguers, one JCD activist and an employee of the hostel.

The violence-ridden medical college also remained closed since September 13 to December last year following a violent clash between Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra

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Shibir that left one student dead. Meanwhile, Chittagong Medical College Students' Union VP and Chhatra League leader Faisal Iqbal Chowdhury and GS Rabiu Karim in a statement blamed JCD for the violence and demanded arrest of the troublemakers.

They also demanded immediate release of the arrested Chhatra League members.

College unit Chhatra Shibir President Lakiatullah and General Secretary Nasiruddin in a separate statement condemned the incident and resented the role of police and college authorities during today's clash.