

## DHAKA COLLEGE BCL factions trade gunfire

12 activists hurt

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 activists of the Dhaka College unit of ruling Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League were injured in a gunfight between two factions of the student organisation on the campus early yesterday.

The unruly activists fired gunshots, exploded crude bombs, damaged five motorbikes, and around 14 rooms of five dormitories of the college during the clash that lasted for an hour and a half, witnesses said.

It all started around 11:30pm on Sunday, when BCL activists led by Sohel first attacked room number 214 of Ilias Hall, where Rinku, leader of another faction, resides, witnesses said. Later violence spread to other halls. Following the incident, around 40 supporters of Rinku fled the dormitories.

During a raid after the incident, police seized three crude bombs, 1 kg sulfur, sticks, iron rods, and machetes from two dormitories, and picked up 15 persons.

Joint Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Shahbuddin Khan said, "We will take a decision about the detainees after verification. We will also investigate the reasons behind the incident." Sources in the college said there has been a longstanding conflict between Rinku and Sohel as both are fighting for a key post in the upcoming committee of the college unit.