

SUST reopens after BCL clash

Staff Correspondent · Sylhet

THE Shahjalal University of Science and Technology authorities reopened the university on Thursday noon, a day after declaring 15-day closure, following a series of clashes between factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League, over establishing supremacy on the campus.

Demonstrating students said they forced the authorities to reopen the campus as they laid siege to the office of the vice-chancellor on Wednesday and Thursday, following the closure order.

The general students withdrew their siege after 22 hours as the authorities announced that SUST has been re-opened.

Some 250 students confined vice-chancellor Aminul Haque Bhuiyan for nearly a day to his office and demanded re-opening of the campus right away.

The university authorities convened an emergency meeting of its syndicate at 9:00am on Thursday that decided to resume academic activities, considering the developments that followed the closure, students and faculty members said.

Sources close to the varsity syndicate said that the university was reopened fearing far-reaching repercussions such as resumption of a movement to unseat the vice-chancellor.

SUST registrar Ishfaqul Hussain confirmed New Age of the syndicate decision and said the agitating students put off their demonstrations at around the noon after their demand was met.

Students said though some 250 students laid the siege to the VC office, similar number of students, mainly female ones, kept on coming to the office as the night deepened. Those students brought foods to energise their fellows.

'The syndicate meeting, however, decided to reopen three male students' halls from Sunday,' the registrar said.

The university was shut following a series of attacks and counter attacks - on Tuesday evening and early Wednesday- between supporters of the BCL campus unit vice-president, Abu Sayeed Akhand and supporters of general secretary, Imran Khan, over establishing supremacy on the campus.

The general students began their agitation immediately in front of the university main entrance around 11:00am on Wednesday and demanded to resume classes and scheduled examinations.

The protesting students said the incumbent university administration is incompetent because they shut the university owing to an intra-party clash.