

SUST closed as BCL groups clash

Staff Correspondent · Sylhet

AUTHORITIES of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on Wednesday closed the academic activities of the university until January 6, following a series of attacks and counter attacks, between factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League, over establishing dominance

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on the campus. Meanwhile, the general students have been demonstrating as they lay siege to the office of Vice Chancellor, demanding for keeping the academic and other functions of the varsity open.

A second syndicate meeting had been called but was postponed as some syndicate members said they were unable to join in the meeting in the evening, said registrar Ishfaqul Hossain.

The office of the VC, Aminul Haque Bhuiyan, had been under siege by some 250 students as of writing this report around 9:10pm.

The students said they would not leave the office

until their university is re-opened, agitating students said.

SUST also shut its three halls for the male students.

A 5-member committee led by civil environmental engineering chief, Jahir Bin Alam, was also formed to probe into the clashes, authorities said.

SUST registrar Ishfaqul Hossain confirmed New Age of the decisions and said the university syndicate made the decisions in an emergency meeting, earlier in the day.

The university had ordered the residents of three male halls to vacate their facilities by 8:00am.

The order followed recovery of some crude bombs

from Shah Paran, Bangabandhu and Syed Muztaba Ali Halls, respectively, campus sources said.

Earlier on Tuesday evening, supporters of the BCL campus unit vice-president, Abu Sayeed Akhand, drove the supporters of the general secretary Imran Khan out of the residential halls, students said.

The miscreants also vandalised several residential rooms, in which supporters of Imran had been living.

Activists of both the factions launched attacks and counter attacks on the campus targeting each other, the entire night, students said.

The officer-in-charge of Jalalabad police, Akhter

Hossain told New Age that they raided the halls and seized a good number of crude bombs.

The general students began their demonstrations in front of the university main entrance, adjacent to Sylhet-Sunamganj highway, in the city around 11:00am.

The agitating students disconnected power and gas lines to the VC's office in the evening to press home their demand, students said.

While talking to New Age, general students' spokesperson, Sarowar Tushar, said that they would keep their demo continue until the authorities retreat from their earlier decision and re-open the university.