

JAN. 25 2011

THE DAILY STAR



Students, police clash at Sylhet Shahjalal varsity: 30 injured

Academic activities suspended: Situation tense as students refuse to vacate halls

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 24: At least 30 people including three policemen were injured in a clash between police and students on the campus of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology today.

The situation became tense at 7 am when police released Vice Chancellor and nine members of the academic council who were confined in the administrative building by the agitating students since yesterday afternoon. The students confined the VC and nine others in the building and locked its main gate to press home their four-point demand. One of the demands is that students securing 60 marks in semester examinations, will have to be placed in the first division.

The agitating students in a procession went to the VC's official residence on the campus at about 12-45 pm and tried to talk with him. As VC refused to talk, the students became furious and some of them started hurling brickbats at on-duty policemen and on the VC's house.

Police resorted to lathicharge to disperse the

students, resulting in a clash between the two sides.

The students ransacked university library and caused extensive damage to the administrative building.

Later, they held a protest rally on the campus and called for an indefinite strike at the varsity.

After the incident, the authorities at an emergency meeting, have decided to suspend all academic activities and asked the students to vacate the halls by 10 tonight.

The students announced that they would not leave the campus. They also demanded immediate resignation of the Vice-Chancellor for not accepting the genuine demands of the common students.

The academic council in its meeting yesterday constituted a committee with the departmental heads and deans of the faculties to resolve the issue in consultation with other varsities.

The students rejected it and reiterated their demands.