

BCL ransacks RU provost room

They act on rumour of hall takeover by JCD men

RU CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Rajshahi University unit ransacked the room of Shaheed Habibur Rahman hall provost and damaged valuables, including the only portrait of Shaheed Habibur Rahman, early yesterday.

Sources said the unruly BCL activists entered the provost room around 12:45am and left everything of the room, including furniture, documents, books and telephonesets, in a mess.

BCL sources said Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) activists held a secret meeting with Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists to occupy the hall on the night. BCL protested the secret meeting and

engaged in an altercation with JSD men over the matter.

But soon after placing wreaths at Shaheed Minar, several hundred BCL activists went to the hall with iron rods and hockey sticks, and tried to flush out JSD activists.

The BCL men then ousted JSD activists from their rooms and requested hall provost Prof Saiful Islam Faruki over phone to come to the spot and seal off the rooms occupied by JSD and JCD activists.

As Prof Saiful's arrival was delayed, some BCL activists started ransacking the room of the hall provost in front of huge number of police. BCL men also set fire to the banners and placards of JSD.

Sayem Sabu, a journalist of local Sonali Sangband, and student Quaium were injured

during the melee.

At about 2:30am, hall provost along with additional police rushed to the hall and assured the BCL men that the authorities would take action against the JSD and JCD activists responsible for the incident.

Police later raided the hall, mainly the rooms occupied by JSD and JCD, following repeated demands from BCL.

During the raid, police recovered a sharp weapon, two hockey sticks and three iron rods. But none was arrested in this connection, police said.

A large number of policemen were deployed in and around the central Shaheed Minar to avert any untoward incident.