

Sporadic clashes between rival groups

RU closed sine die

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 26: Authorities today closed Rajshahi University sine die after sporadic clashes between rival student organisations for the last three days.

All the residential students vacated their respective dormitories by 12 noon Friday responding to the decision of the University Syndicate.

The meeting was presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Amanullah.

All the examinations including the subsidiary examinations scheduled to be held on July 27 were postponed, for an indefinite period.

The University Syndicate took the decision of closure at an emergency meeting Friday morning following night-long gun battle which resulted in injury of over

100 students and damaging of 165 rooms in six different residential halls.

The warring groups opened over 500 rounds of gun shots and the police dispersed over 200 tear gas shells since 10:30 p.m. till 4:30 a.m.

The twenty-three seriously injured students were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Five of them received bullet injuries while, 35 others were hit by pellets on different parts of their bodies.

The seriously injured persons included Vice-President of Sher-e-Bangla Hall from Chhatra Moitry Shahin Chowdhury, former Vice-President of JSD (Inu) Chhatra League Hasib, an activist, Pear, General Secretary of Chhatra Moitry Jahurul Huq Bul Bul, Swapon of Chhatra Union and

Nitai of Chhatra League (A-A) and Babul and Montu of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

According to eye witnesses, the incidents ensued at about 10:30 p.m. when JCD activists armed with fire arms raided Suhrawardy Hall and chased supporters of All Party Students Unity Council (APSUC) out of the hall.

Simultaneously the JCD activists raided and occupied Sher-e-Bangla, Mother Box and Habibur Rahman Halls.

All Party Students Unity activists tried to take control of Suhrawardy and Sher-e-Bangla Halls but had to retreat in the face of arms.

The chase and counter chase continued till 4:30 p.m. More than 165 rooms of seven residential halls—Suhrawardy, Mother Box, Habibur Rahman, Sher-e-Bangla, Abdul Latif, S.M. and Amir Ali Halls were ransacked and articles of some of the rooms were set on fire.

The APSUC alleged that the JCD with the help of the law enforcing agencies carried out the terrorist activities.