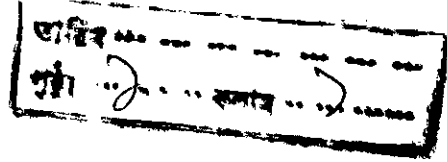


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Students assault VC KU closed sine die

Khulna Bureau

KHULNA, Jan 21:—Khulna University (KU) authority has declared the university closed for sine die this afternoon. All the residential halls were vacated after the students had assaulted teachers including Vice Chancellor Dr. S M Nazrul Islam this noon.

Extra police force have been deployed at KU campus to control any untoward situation.

Students who have been agitating since last Thursday demanding extension to Women's Hall for more accommodation of female students. They assaulted the VC and other teachers and KU officers when the VC went to meet them for a solution, alleged KU authority.

While talking to this correspondent the students denied the allegation brought against them and said some unruly employees influence by teachers had thrown brickbats on students and that sparked a clash at about 12 noon. Some teachers received injury at that time, they said.

Hundreds of KU students staged a 'sit-in' strike in front of KU Administrative Building this morning demanding immediate solution of female students' accommodation problem. Students complained that the Provost of Women's Hall locked rooms of the hostel this morning without any notice. "Moreover the VC and Treasurer behaved very rough

with us when we put forward our problems before them," students complained in chorus. The students who are clashing with employees and teachers ransacked glasses of Administrative Building and severed some telephone lines. They threatened to take greater action if their demands were not met.

Soon after the incident the KU authority called an emergency meeting of KU Academic Council and decided to close it for an uncertain period and they got vacated residential all. Police took position in front of the halls when those were vacated. Some students tried to resist, but they were not finally successful.

When asked the KU VC Dr. SM Nazrul Islam told The Bangladesh Observer, It's not a residential university and students were admitted after they had given an under taking that KU was not bound to provide them accommodation. Still we managed two extra rooms for more than 30 female students in addition to 145 seats. But now they demand for a rented hostel immediately which is too costly to maintain for, he added. The VC also said, we have no fund to provide them accommodation before 2002.

KU Treasurer Sarder Abdur Razzak said, some are planning to foil the upcoming Convocation of KU to be attended by country's President.