BCL men go berserk

Dhaka Polytechnic Institute shut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Polytechnic Institute has been shut indefinitely after Chhatra League activists went on the rampage and attacked teachers demanding pass mark for two students.

The authorities asked all students to vacate dormitories by 10:00am today. Nearly 1,200 students live in five dormitories on the campus.

Preparation was on for filing a case with Tejgaon Shilpanchal Police Station in connection with the incident.

Sources said nearly 1,500 students took part in second year's final exam. Of them, 503 students failed one or two subjects. They later sat for supplementary exams, but 55 of them again failed to obtain pass mark.

BCL men

"Some BCL leaders have been putting pressure on us to give pass mark to two of the 55 students since we published the results three days back," said a teacher on condition of anonymity.

The two students of Civil Technology Department got four and six marks out of 100.

Around 150 present and former students of the department, who belong to BCL, locked the department's office at about 11:30am.

The BCL activists vandalised several rooms and furniture at the departments of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, library, accountant's office and workshop. They later swooped on teachers, who were holding a meeting, said the teacher.

"They hurled brickbats leaving three teachers injured. The teachers were taken to a local clinic for first aid."

Teachers and employees chased them when they tried to move towards the principal's room. Law enforcers arrived on the scene after an hour and brought the situation under control, said the teacher.

The authorities later held a meeting and decided to close the institute indefinitely.

A five-member committee led by Abul Kashem Majumder, head of Electrical Engineering Department, has been formed to probe the incident. The committee will submit its report in 10 days, Rafiqul Islam Mir, principal of the institute, told The Daily Star last night.

He said they identified some of the attackers, and a case would be filed in connection with the incident.

Police were yet to arrest anyone, said Farukh Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Shilpanchal Police Station.