

SHAHJALAL UNIVERSITY

4 students suspended over assault on teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) authorities yesterday suspended four students for their alleged involvement in Sunday's incident of assault on the teachers demonstrating for the removal of the university's vice-chancellor.

The students, affiliated with Bangladesh Chhatra League, are Dhani Ram Roy of Statistics, Abdullah Al Masum of Political Studies, Ariful Islam Arif and Jahid Hossain Nayeem of Forestry and Environmental Science.

"The four were suspended following the recommendation of the proctorial body's after it found their involvement in the attack," VC Prof Aminul

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Haque Bhuyan told The Daily Star.

A show cause notice was also issued to the four students, the VC said. He, however, did not say when they would have to come up with their explanations.

According to campus sources, the four are followers of BCL's SUST unit General Secretary Imran Khan. But Imran rejected the claim.

On Monday night, the BCL suspended three of its SUST leaders -- Abu Saeed Akond, senior vice-president, Anjan Ray, vice-president, and Sajedul Islam Sabuj, joint general secretary -- in connection with assaulting teachers.

The pro-Awami League student organisation also served a show cause notice on the three, asking them to explain why they would not be expelled, said SM Jakir Hossain, general secretary of BCL central committee.

He said they would soon begin an internal investigation into the trio's involvement in the incident.

On Sunday, alleged BCL activists swooped on teachers during the latter's pre-scheduled demonstration to stop the VC from entering his office. Several teachers, including Prof Yasmeen Haque, wife of noted writer Prof Muhammed Zafar Iqbal, were assaulted at that time.

On that afternoon, BCL's SUST unit President Sanjibon Chakravarty Partha claimed that Chhatra League was not involved in the incident "organisationally".

Meanwhile, the agitating teachers

yesterday staged a demonstration on the campus as part of their three-day programme protesting the assault.

They brought out a silent procession from the teachers' canteen and ended it in front of the administrative building after parading through the campus streets. They also held a rally there.

The teachers under the banner of Mahan Muktijuddher Chetona Udbuddho Shikkhak Parishad launched the agitation on April 12, demanding the removal of the VC for his alleged misbehaviour with some teachers and irregularities.

On the other hand, another group of teachers under the banner of Muktijuddher Chetona O Mukto Chinta Charchai Oikyabaddha Shikkhakbrinda took the VC's side and labelled the agitation as "an act of creating instability".

On April 20, 35 agitating teachers resigned from different administrative posts in protest. Four days later, the VC went on a two-month leave.

On August 24, the education ministry asked all teachers to stop the movement to keep the academic activities on.

Meanwhile, Samajik Pratirodha Committee, a platform of 70 women and human rights organisations, yesterday condemned the assault on the teachers and demanded an action against those responsible for the incident.

[Our Moulvibazar correspondent Mintu Deshwara also contributed to this report].