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The SUST still in severe crisis How to help salvage it now?

From Our Correspondent

MOULVIBAZAR, Apr 4:—The deadlock created over three weeks ago at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) is still being continued. As a result, academic and administrative activities of SUST have also been stopped.

At present, teacher organisation, student-organisations and general students, officers and general employees of SUST Protection Association are now observing various programmes including stay-in-strike, protest-meetings, forming of human-chain etc. almost every day to realise their respective demands thereby making the over all situation of SUST very critical. Almost all the organisations and agitators have also blamed the SUST authority for the ongoing critical situation at SUST.

According to sources, the teacher association of SUST on December 15 last started "abstention from work" to realise its series of demands including promotion and making jobs permanent. Their abstention from work also continued during the rest days of the month.

Later at one stage, the SUST authority assured the teachers to meet the reasonable demands of the teachers within one month. The teacher association then withdrew its programmes in this respect and the teachers resumed their duties accordingly. But during the said one month the demands of the teachers were not met—teachers association alleged.

Then the teacher association started thinking to go on movement again to realise its demands. On March 9 last, teacher association in demand for 10-point demands arranged a meeting in front of Library Building of SUST with its President Dr Md Akhterul Islam in the chair.

In the meeting Teacher Association Secretary General Syed Hasanuzzaman said Teacher Association had taken five decisions including running of non-cooperation movement for indefinite period and demanding of

resignation of Vice Chancellor until their 10-point demands were met.

After March 9 at one stage, Officers and General Employees of SUST supported the movement of Teachers Association and joined with them. And a Liaison Committee was formed with most of the teachers, officers and general employees of SUST. This Liaison Committee during last 15 days have been observing various programmes including protest-meeting, forming of human chain, stay-in-strike at SUST campus, silent-processions and rallies etc almost every day here to press home their demands.

The Liaison Committee on different occasion in recent days said "the resignation of Vice Chancellor is now our only demand". The committee further said teacher and others would go back to their respective duties as soon as the VC should resign.

Meanwhile, the Liaison Committee on March 15 last in a press conference in Sylhet brought some 39 allegations of irregularities and corruption and administrative inefficiency against the VC.

Meanwhile, on March 17 last a meeting with a view to solving the deadlock of SUST was also held in Dhaka between Liaison Committee and Education Minister, Secretary of Education, Ministry and many others concerned were also present in the meeting. But this meeting could not yield any good result. Of course, such another meeting is learnt to be held possibly within a few days.

The SUS Protection Association formed with a few teachers and others and is also known as a supporting body of VC, has also called upon the Liaison Committee to withdraw its movement. This association has also been observing various programmes in support of restarting academic and administrative activities of SUST.

The SUST Protection Association on March 31 last in a press conference at Sylhet Press Club declared to hold classes of SUST

from April 6 next. Association Convenor Dr Md Habibul Ahsan read out the written statement in the press conference.

Different student organisations and general students of SUST by considering their academic life have by now also been observing various programmes to solve the deadlock of the SUST at an early date. General students under different banners and several student organisation have also banned the SUST authority for the ongoing critical situation of SUST. General students have also sent memorandum to the President of the country who is also the Chancellor and top-most guardian body of SUST, requesting to take active initiatives to solve the ongoing crisis of SUST. Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and different bodies of general students are learnt to have been observing programmes, demanding to solve the SUST crisis.

In the meantime leaders different socio-cultural and professional local organisations including Sylhet Division Education Development Association, Sylhet Mohanagar Nagarik Odhikar Bastahayan Sangram Parishad, Sochitan Nagarik Samaj, Sylhet Mohanagar Committee, Sylhet Division Ganasangram Parishad, Ganasangskriti Kendra, Professional Forum of Sylhet, Durnibar Kirachakra Sylhet, Chetona Bikash Kendra etc. in a statement have also demanded the resignation of VC to save the SUST.

It is further observed that during the last 3 to 4 days the overall present situation of SUST deteriorated as the Liaison Committee and the SUS Protection Association are either observing or giving programmes and counter programmes to realise their respective demands.

In view of the greater interests of the academic life of students and the future of SUST, the highest authorities concerned should immediately take fruitful and active measures to solve the ongoing critical crisis of SUST.