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SUST stalemate deepens

Liaison committee wants VC's exit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The stalemate at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Sylhet has deepened now.

The liaison committee of teachers, officers and employees, at a press conference on Saturday, has reiterated demand for immediate resignation of vice chancellor (VC) of the university, while another group of teachers termed the demand as unacceptable and contradictory.

The liaison committee went on a non-cooperation movement against the VC, while students under the banner of Common Students Forum were pressing for immediate resumption of academic activities. Students organised a rally protesting the teachers' movement.

A group of teachers at a meeting with Dr Habibul Ahsan, a syndicate member in the chair termed the agitation as 'unacceptable' saying most of the 10-point demands were already been met, while rest demands will be discussed at a Syndicate meet-

ing scheduled to be held on March 23. They called for withdrawal of the agitation programme till the Syndicate meeting.

The agitating group lodged general diaries (GD) with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station against proctor Dr Golam Ali Haider Chowdhury and Assistant Proctor Murshed Chowdhury on charge of provoking students against teachers at their rally.

Convenor of liaison committee Dr Akhttarul Islam read out a written statement in the press conference. It was addressed, among others, by employees' union president Abdul Hai, teachers' association general secretary (GS) Hasanuzzaman Shyamol and ex-GS Dr Kabir Hossain, officers' association GS Khairul Akhtar Chowdhury. All of them alleged that the crisis was only due to inefficiency of the VC.

Students will hold a rally on Sunday which will be followed by a procession on the campus.

Earlier, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Teachers'

Association (SUSTTA) announced a programme of 48-hour ultimatum. Afterwards, they went on an indefinite strike on March 9 to press for VC's resignation. They were agitating for promotion, regularisation and other service related demands of teachers and others.

Later, officers and employees of the university extended their support to the demands of teachers. They also wanted fulfillment of their demands.

An influential quarter inside the university was reportedly behind the crisis.

Professor Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, VC of the university told The Daily Star that most of the demands were already been met. He went on saying that a certain quarter was actively trying to create an unstable situation on the campus. "I shall not accept any undue demand," he said. "A number of important issues will be discussed in the Syndicate meeting on March 23," he further said. "I hope many problems will be solved there", he added.