

SUST remains tense

Pro-AL teachers to observe hunger strike on Wednesday, VC's supporters urge for discussion to resolve stalemate

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A SECTION of teachers known as admirers of the vice-chancellor Aminul Haque of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology on Monday alleged that the protesting teachers were creating chaos on the campus in the name of movement for removal of the VC.

The admirers also urged the agitating teachers to sit for discussion and resolve the stalemate.

The agitating teachers have been campaigning against the incumbent VC for 4 months on alleged grounds of various irregularities, nepotism and improper behavior with the fellows.

The fans of the VC made the call in a press conference held under the banner of 'Mahan Muktiuddha o Muktabuddhi Charchay Oiktabaddha Shikkhakbrindha', a forum of the left-leaning

teachers in the university.

Forum convener Akhtarul Islam read out a written speech at the press conference.

Explaining their stance over the ongoing movement by the agitating teachers, Akhtarul said the movement against the VC had begun as a sequel to a conflict regarding personal interests of some teachers.

He said the applied science and technology faculty dean, Zahir Bin Alam, also convener of the university space committee, had misbehaved with a teacher of geography and environmental engineering department following an argument over using several rooms of an academic building.

Following the incident, both groups visited the VC to let him know about the dispute and looked for a solution. Aminul Haque, however, did not give them a patient

hearing, Akhtarul said.

'But, such issue of misbehaving with teachers cannot be a ground for a movement demanding VC's withdrawal,' he observed.

Earlier in the midday, they also formed a human chain in front of central library building to register their protest against any alleged attempt to turn the campus disordered.

Addressing a rally after the human chain, the speakers urged the government to form a committee to investigate into the events that took place on the campus during the last four months.

SUST teachers' association president Kabir Hossain chaired the rally was addressed, among others, by professor Rashed Talukder, Akhtarul Islam and Dilara Rahman.

Meanwhile, the protesting teachers under the banner of 'Muktijuddher Chetanay Udbuddha Chhatra, Shikkhak

Karmakarta of Karmachari' brought out a procession in front of the central library building around 11:00am to mourn the death of Ganajagan Mancha activist Shahriar Mazumder, also a masters' student of architecture engineering department.

Shahriar's body was found hanging from a railing of a window in his rented residence at Surma residential area near the SUST campus on Thursday night.

Addressing a rally after the procession, Prof. Zafar Iqbal, also a popular author, demanded immediate investigation into the death of Shahriar.

MCUSP convener Syed Shamsul Alam told New Age later that they are going to observe a token hunger strike from 10 in the morning to 4 in the afternoon on Wednesday, abstain from works from 9:00am to 5:00pm on Thursday to press home their demands.