

Gauhati University Facing Closure

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ASSAM TRIBUNE

By A Staff Reporter
GAUHATI, July 7—The Gauhati University is facing closure due to a serious financial crisis. The administrative authority at any time may be forced by circumstances to close down the university, it is learnt.

The teachers and staff were not paid their salary for the month of June till today. The university at present is in the red. It has already taken overdrafts to the maximum extent possible. It requires Rs 14 lakhs to pay salaries and to meet some necessary expenditure heads.

The annual budget of the University is about Rs 3 crores and against this the Government of Assam gives a grant of Rs 40 lakhs per annum. According to the normal practice, deficit in university budget is made up by the Government. The Government is understood to have not wiped out deficit for last three years. As a result of this, the financial position of the University has become extremely insolvent.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University, Dr Jamini Mohan Choudhury yesterday met the Governor, Sri L P Singh; who is also the Chancellor of the University, and apprised him of the situation arising out of the financial crisis.

The Vice-Chancellor this morning addressed a meeting of the teachers, students and staff and informed them of the critical financial position of the University. There has been a general dismay in the campus. When this reporter visited the University campus at midday today saw most of the faculty and administrative staff rooms locked. Very few employees attended offices. Classes are, however, held as usual. The teachers and students this year decided to forgo their summer vacation to make good the

academic loss during last the one and half years of agitation on foreign nationals issue.

Meanwhile, an emergent general meeting of the Gauhati University Teachers' Association condemned the authorities of the University for their failure to pay the employees, including the teachers, their salary for June, 1981 till yesterday. The GUTA has noted with distress that delayed payment of monthly salary has become almost a normal practice with this University for the past few years. While holding the State Government primarily responsible for the present financial crisis of the University, the GUTA expressed its unhappiness that the University authorities have not cared to do their best to ameliorate the situation, and thus failed to discharge their basic obligation to the employees. This

failure is indicative of the chronic inefficiency of the University at all levels of its day-to-day administration, and its callous indifference to the hardship of the employees in these days of rising prices. This meeting demanded of the authorities to pay the employees their salary for the last month within July 10 1981 failing which the Association will have no other alternative than to demand the resignation of the Executive Council of the GU.

The meeting further noted that payment of salary alone will not keep the University going. The present malady is deep-rooted and if no timely action is taken this premier Institution of Assam will collapse and there will be grave repercussion in the higher education in Assam in future. The meeting urged upon the State Government to see reason and come out with all necessary financial help in order to stall death of a public institution of higher learning.

The meeting also observed that it is the duty of the State Government not only to establish at University by passing an Act, it has also the duty to maintain the University at all levels for the growth and development of academic life in the State. It condemned the callousness of the Government towards the University and demanded of it to extend all necessary help to the University.

The general body meeting of the GUTA further urged upon the Chancellor of this University to see his good offices to prevail upon the State Government to see that this premier University of the North-East India does not face any financial difficulties in its normal functioning.

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Citizens' Forum On CRPC Memorandum

GAUHATI, July 6 — The Citizens' Forum, Assam has expressed its strong protest against the contention of the Citizens' Right Preservation Committee (CRPC) Assam, in their memorandum to the Union Home Minister, as published in a section of the Press.

The president of the Forum, Sri D P Sen in a statement says; 'Sri Tarapada Bhattacharjee, General Secretary and Sri Nripati Ranjan Choudhury, an Executive Member of the Citizens' Right Preservation Committee, Assam; in their memorandum to the Union Home Minister, have reportedly amongst other things, suggested for giving legal status to the controversial Indira-Mujib pact.

'When for historical reason, the Government of India is rightly distinguishing between authorised and unauthorised entrants, the CRPC representatives are making an attempt to secure the same status for all entrants till March 25 1971, ignoring the provisions of Immigration (Expulsion from Assam) Act 1950, which gave legal sanction to commitments made to the victims of partition.

'Moreover by referring to the so-called Indira-Mujib Pact, the CRPC leaders are accepting a cut-off year, ignoring the historical background of partition and its basis, which still exist.

In Forum's view, the acceptance of any cut-off year, either 1961 or 1971 or any other year without looking into the basic aspects of the problem, shall have serious consequences not only for Assam, but for the whole of India. It is of course true that our tradition and culture give highest value to the human aspects of any problem and so in solving this vexed problem, peace and amity should be maintained. But that the basic issues involved can not be bypassed, if there is a desire to solve this problem once for all.