

Calcutta University Incident on June 24

# Demand for Impartial Enquiry Rejected to Suppress Truth Conspiracy Hatched to Crush Student Movement Against Fee-Hike

# Proletarian Era

Organ of SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA  
Founder Editor-in-Chief :  
COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Volume 26, No. 17 17th July, 1993  
Price : 80 p. Air Surcharge 0.05 p.

The assault on Dr. Bharati Roy, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education), Calcutta University, on 24th June last, is no doubt an incident that demands condemnation and censure from all. The All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) has demanded a high-power impartial enquiry into the incident and punishment of the culprits. The AIDSO has also emphatically stated that it was an well-planned conspiracy to implicate them in June 24 incident and thereby malign them in the eyes of the people in general and the student community in particular. This conspiracy was aimed at nipping in the bud all the student movements and especially the anti-fee hike stir by the AIDSO which is in the forefront of the student movements against the government and the university authorities for unjust and harmful policies and steps. On 24th June the Calcutta University authorities announced the enhancement of fees including those of examinations all of which range between 150% and 1000%. Though in the meantime, however, sensing the mood of the students they have been compelled to reduce the rate of hike to some extent.

## What Really Happened On That Eventful Day

The authorities knew it well that this abnormal fee hike would certainly create strong resentment and indignation among the student community and they would not take lying down this most unjust decision which is nothing but the continuation and extension of the anti-people policies and steps of the CPI(M)-led Left Front government in the field of education also like abolition of English and pass-fail system from the primary level of education which have butchered the system and standard of education in the state. They were quite aware that the AIDSO will not let these anti-education and anti-student moves go unresisted and will definitely mobilise students against this unjust and unbearable burden as they did in the past. So, the only way left before the CPI(M) to implement this policy was the path of repression and suppression with the help of police, administration, party hoodlums and antisocials as they do always. It became clear when it was found that the University authorities kept the local police station on alert prior to June 24, the report of which appeared in the Press also.

But what did not come to the Press is that side by side with alerting the police the CPI(M) assembled the university employees loyal to them and the local antisocials who as soon as directed would pounce on the students.

As per prior announcement, on 24th June around noon the AIDSO demonstrators entered

the university campus to submit a memorandum to V. C. against the fee hike and assembled in front of the entrance of the Vice-Chancellor's office who was not in his chamber that day. The Pro-V.C.(Finance) Dr. Prabuddha Nath Roy during the period was in his chamber and naturally the students wanted to send a small delegation with a view to submitting him the memorandum. But they were not allowed to get inside the university office under the instruction of Dr. P. N. Roy. The Press did not report this part of the incident.

The way Dr. P. N. Roy refused to accept the memorandum was very easy for the demonstrating students to understand that the CU authorities would in no way receive the memorandum nor meet the student delegation. After that Dr. Bharati Roy, reached the University. The students from their past experience could realise that it would be impossible to submit her the memorandum once she got inside her office. So the demonstrators and only the girl students amongst them assembled around her car and insisted her on taking the memorandum but she all along refused. The matter would have ended there had any of the Pro V. C.s, Dr. P. N. Roy or Dr. Bharati Roy, accepted the memorandum. But they did not show on their part this minimum

(Continued on Page 2)

## SUCI Condemns Destruction of Netaji Statue

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement on 7th July last to the Press condemning the destruction of statue of Netaji in the INA Building complex at Moirang of Manipur by blast :

"No word is strong enough to condemn the criminal act of destroying the statue of Netaji, one of the foremost freedom fighters of India and the symbol of uncompromising trend of our freedom struggle.

"We demand of the government that the culprits behind this dastardly act be apprehended forthwith, exemplary punishment meted out to them and the statue be restored."



*Demanding withdrawal of increase in fees, reintroduction of English and pass-fail system at the primary level of education and institution of an impartial enquiry into June 24 incident at the Calcutta University Campus, as well as in protest against the slander campaign unleashed by the CPI(M), the West Bengal State Committee of the AIDSO called a students' strike on 8th July last. On that day a 15,000 strong huge demonstration of students started from the Sealdah Rly. Station, Calcutta and parading the main thoroughfares of Central Calcutta converged on the venue of the meeting in front of the Metro Rly. Station, Esplanade.*

## Sole Aim of CPI(M) is to Have the Fee-Hike Implemented Smoothly

(Continued from page 1)

democratic norm. But it surprised us to see in the newspapers the next day that 'she did not refuse to accept the memorandum' whereas the Deputy Commissioner of Police HQ in Lalbazar said: "the Pro-V.C. did not agree to receive the memorandum". (*Aajkaal*, 25th June, '93). "Till then the situation was still peaceful. Bharati Devi kept herself inside the car for a while." (*Ananda Bazar Patrika*, 25th June, '93). But the situation turned for the worse when all of a sudden a group of university employees in association with the antisocials having allegiance to the CPI(M) pounced on the students with lathis, iron chains, daggers and even pistols and started beating and kicking the girl students injuring 32 AIDS members including seven girls. Along with them appeared on the scene a section of the high officials of the university, who seldom leave their cosy chambers and come downstairs, and in the name of rescuing Dr. Bharati Roy, started dragging her by hand. And closing both the gates of the varsity the CPI(M)-supported employees and antisocials continued their brutal attack on the students. The top leaders of the CPI(M)-supported employees union guided the action of the stormtroopers. The intervention of these university employees and antisocials can be found in the newspaper reports where it was reported that they had come to 'rescue' Dr. Bharati Roy.

The role played by the CPI(M) stormtroopers in suppressing the movements is not unknown at least to the people of West Bengal. They always appear on the scene either to 'keep law and order' or to 'foil anti-Left Front conspiracy'. The people of this state are quite aware of the heinous role they play, which can be compared with that of Hitlerite stormtroopers, during the people's movement - be it on the demand of reintroduction of English and pass-fail system in the primary level of education, against hike in transport fares, junior doctors' movements on justified demands or of the workers of the closed industries. And there was no exception to their role on 24th June in the Calcutta University campus. The injuries suffered by 32 students bear enough evidence to the cruel and heinous attack they unleashed by closing the gates. Moved by the plight of the students and to save their life from the marauders, some well meaning employees opened the main gate. The students then in protest against the attack on their legitimate movement by the CPI(M) antisocials and the condemnable attitude of the Calcutta University authorities put up a road-block on College Street.

In reply to the out and out false and mischievous propaganda that the AIDS had the plan to assault the Pro-V.C., it can be said without much thought that had the AIDS any planned design to assault any of the university officials they could do it easily and even on Dr. P. N. Roy. Their aim was to only initiate the anti-fee hike stir through submission of

memorandum to either the Vice Chancellor or any of the Pro- Vice Chancellors. But Dr. P. N. Roy refused to meet the students, let alone receive the memorandum. This is a vital occurrence and the interested circles are attempting to obliterate this fact. On the contrary, the V. C. later on himself alleged that as planned earlier, the AIDS did not want to submit the memorandum to Dr. P. N. Roy with a view to assaulting Dr. Bharati Roy. Though Dr. Bharati Roy herself 'however felt the violence was not pre-planned'. (*The Statesman*, 26th June, '93). The WB minister of Higher Education, Mr. Satyasadhan Chakraborty, who was not at all present on the spot of occurrence branded it as 'pre-planned'. But the fact remains that it was not possible for the AIDS to know whether Dr. Bharati Roy would at all come to the varsity or not. Over and above, the AIDS had earlier invited the Press to cover the programme. So had the AIDS any design to assault Dr. Bharati Roy or any of the high officials of the varsity they would not have invited the Press so that they could witness the incident of assault. This proves that the AIDS had no design to show any untoward behavior to anybody, let alone manhandling. So, the logic advanced by the CPI(M) that the AIDS demonstrators were planfully waiting for the arrival of Dr. Bharati Roy in order to assault her has no leg to stand on.

On the other hand, there was the surprising presence of the photographer of *Ganashakti*, Bengali organ of the CPI(M), whom the AIDS did not invite and *Ganashakti* never covered in the past any AIDS programme. (The reason is too obvious to be explained here.) Would it then be wrong to ask why did he come? Is it because he knew how the incident would be painted?

### Strange Inconsistency And Some Questions

There was no indication of any assault on Dr. Bharati Roy in the 24th June edition of *Sandhyo Aajkaal* (an evening tabloid edition of Bengali daily *Aajkaal*) whereas in the next day's morning *Aajkaal* the AIDS was accused of assaulting Dr. Bharati Roy. Moreover, a picture in utter bad taste was published by the same daily wherein a dishevelled Mrs. Roy was seen to be escorted by two university employees and a third person (an 'active student' in the language of the *Aajkaal*) pulling one end of her sari. Immediately after the publication of this picture the AIDS emphatically made it clear that they had no connection whatsoever with this third person and demanded his arrest forthwith and punishment. But the question remains why did the *Aajkaal* not avail of the golden opportunity of publishing the said sensational picture in question in its evening edition the previous day and why did it wait for another day, i. e. 25th June? This kind of opportunity even from the pure business point of view does not come quite often. There was not an inkling in the 24th June

edition of the said evening that Dr. Bharati Roy had been assaulted. Whereas the very next day by publishing this photograph which was in a very bad taste the heinous allegation of pulling Dr. Bharati Roy's sari was made against the AIDS. This amply clarifies also the mystery behind the unusual presence of the *Ganashakti* photographer.

The strange inconsistency reflected in this photograph has not escaped the common people's notice. It is only natural for the rescuers to resist the so-called active student when he is pulling the sari of the rescued. But it is seen in the photograph that the so-called rescuers are looking nonchalantly at the camera when the third person branded as the criminal is pulling the sari without any resistance! Even the persons in the backdrop of the photograph are seen to be unperturbed. Moreover, the demonstration was staged on the eastern lawn of the Darbhanga Building of the Calcutta University, whereas the photograph in the *Aajkaal* was taken somewhere in the narrow passage to the north of the said building. And there was no way the students could reach that place; in fact they did not go there at all.

The hysteria raised by the CPI(M), its mass organisations and even the Chief Minister to implicate the AIDS, has not been able to resolve the gross inconsistency of this picture in question published by the *Aajkaal*. The suspicion of foul play is gaining ground with each passing day. The people could see that without making any effort to locate the above mentioned 'third person' the police under instruction from the Left Front government are arresting only the innocent members of the AIDS and implicating them in false cases. They have even arrested a noted leader of the bank employees in South Calcutta and severely beat and harassed him. On the other hand, the police did not take any action against the SFI members who obstructed and physically assaulted AIDS members while they were distributing leaflets, containing what really happened on that day, inside the university and college campuses. That the accusation against the AIDS is purely a concocted one has been further proved by the recent decision of the university authorities. It is reported in *The Statesman* that the university authorities have shunned the decision to institute any enquiry on the said incident. The proposal for an impartial enquiry was nullified in the special meeting of the University Senate on 5th July. Naturally, questions crop up why? What is their apprehension? Why the Left Front government and the ruling CPI(M) are not instituting an impartial enquiry? Why are they not identifying the said 'third person'? Is it that the CPI(M) would be in difficulty if the real identity of the man is revealed? Is it only for this reason that the state government, the police and the faithful authorities of the Calcutta University want to keep the identity of the miscreant a secret? And is it the only

reason why they are avoiding the path of an impartial enquiry ?

**Why This Attack**

That the sole intention of the CPI(M) behind the game is to crush the student and education movement in general and the anti-fee hike movement becomes amply clear when we see that the Left Front government instructed immediately after the said incident all the 35 police stations in the city to see to it that no movement against the fee hike gets crystallised. The faithful authorities of the university also have begun to tell that they are thinking over whether meetings and demonstrations could be totally banned inside the varsity campus. As they have failed to make all the educationists to toe their line and join them in the chorus they failed to achieve anything other than passing a mere censure motion against the incident in the Senate and the Syndicate. During the Left Front misrule the university has virtually become a veritable fort of the bureaucrats with formidable heavy doors. Except for the faithful student organisations it has become next to impossible to cross these doors and present viewpoints. They do not remain content with debarring the airing of students' grievances and the teachers' good advices; now they are trying their very best to stifle the voice of dissent. For this the vanguard of the dissenting students, the AIDS0, has become their prime target. In the silence of the graveyard that prevails in the university precincts the only voice that could not be gagged has been that of the AIDS0.

Thus the AIDS0 has exposed the anti-student and anti-education steps and policies of the Left Front government led by the CPI(M). Over and above, the AIDS0 is trying its best to hold high the banner of idealism, human values and character amidst the morass of allout degradation. The ruling parties have been observing that as the vanguard of students movement the AIDS0 is fast coming to the forefront. So to stall the forward march of this force the CPI(M) has become desperate with the old tactics of obstructing political propoganda of others, letting loose reign of terror, repression of democratic movements through police and party stormtroopers. And this time they resorted to a novel method of spreading canards and character assassination. Because the CPI(M) knows that apart from the dedication to the correct revolutionary ideology the source of strength of the movement lies in the strength of character of the AIDS0 members and the love and affection of the common people. That is why in utter desperation the CPI(M) have floated this planned false and unbelievable theory that the AIDS0 members shunning all decorum had physically assaulted the Pro-V. C. Dr. Bharati Roy. Following the footsteps of Goebbels they are repetitively propogating this utter falsehood in an attempt to have the people believe this trash.

But history is always very cruel to these falsifiers of truth. How long can they pass the falsehood for truth ? The falsehood cannot but be exposed in the long run. Implicating the communists in the burning down of the Reichstag

**Repression and Plunder of Adivasis in Keonjhar go on Unabated**

Bhubaneswar, June 25 : The Forest Department of Orissa Government have acted with mad vengeance this time in the district of Keonjhar, Orissa. The police earlier looted the tribal villages, harassed the Adivasis and put them in jail custody. On 28th and 29th May 93, the state armed police along with the officials of Forest Department, Keonjhar, attacked the Aluni village of Telkoi Block in Keonjhar District and demolished 189 houses of Adivasi families. The Adivasi people belonging to Kolha, Santal and Gond community along with their women and children were manhandled and harassed. Their household goods including livestock were looted by the police. This type of barbaric and inhuman act is taking place in Orissa when the year 1993 is declared as the 'International Year of the Aborigines'.

This is a matter of regret that when the Government is giving lease of hundreds of acres of land to influential people, contractors, industrialists and capitalists, the poor people are being evicted from their native soil where they were living for more than fifty years. The government instead of punishing the culprits—contractors and businessmen who are destroying the forest—is evicting this poor people in the name of protecting the environment and creating new forest.

**Demonstration in Madras against Milk Price-Hike**

Madras, June 21 : Volunteers of the SUCI today held an hour-long demonstration in the evening before the VP Hall, EVR Salai, Madras, to protest against the announcement of the hike in milk price by Aavin.

The large number of demonstrators raised slogans accusing the government of utter callousness for snatching milk from the mouths of the thousands of poor children in the city who would be very severely affected.

Comrade R. Baskaran, Tamilnadu State Committee member of SUCI, who spoke to the people assembled there called upon them to boldly come forward and build up movements, both for compelling the government to withdraw the milk price hike totally, and for taking steps on a war-footing to achieve a permanent solution to the drinking water problem.

is why even the mighty Hitler had to bite dust in the end. Fascism could not exonerate itself on the altar of history.

The picture published in the *Aajkaal* on 24th June by the vested interest, thinking that it would be a revealing proof against the AIDS0's 'heinous' crime, has to a great extent unveiled their conspiracy. Reluctance to institute an impartial enquiry and allowing the real culprits go scot-free by not apprehending him has proved beyond doubt the real culprits of this most ignominious chapter in the history of Calcutta University.

**Here are some of the examples of proposed hike in fees by the Calcutta University authorities**

Name of Examination	What it was	What is Proposed	Percentage of Increase
B. A., B. Sc., B. Com. ( Pass ) ( Non-Practical based )	Rs. 75	Rs. 120	60
B. A., B. Sc., B. Com. ( Pass ) ( Practical based )	Rs. 85	Rs. 150	75
B. A., B. Sc., B. Com. ( Hons. ) ( Non-Practical based )	Rs. 80	Rs. 145	81
B. A., B. Sc., B. Com. ( Hons. ) ( Practical based )	Rs. 90	Rs. 160	77
Ph. D. Registration Fee	Rs. 100	Rs. 500	500
Ph. D. Thesis Submission Fee	Rs. 200	Rs. 1000	500
Admission Form	Re. 1	Rs. 10	1000

For years the AIDS0 has tirelessly been protesting and organising mighty protracted students movements against the harmful language and education policies of the Left Front government and corruption and anarchy in education in West Bengal and the destructive education policy of the Central government and its extended version in the state — the Ashoke Mitra Commission recommendations.

the fascists massacred the communists. The fascists had inserted a communist party card in the pocket of the agent-provocateur. They thought that this card would work as the clinching-proof against the communists. But this very card helped unmask the conspiracy because it did not require much effort for the people to realise that had a communist really done this he would not have carried his party card in his pocket. That

# Severe Job Crisis Rocks the West

The bubbles have burst, the myth of Western affluence has been shattered and the memory of unprecedented rapid growth and rising productivity of the period from the late 1940's to the early 1970's is being faded out. Growing trade, rising incomes and soaring living standards of the people in Europe, the United States and Japan are all but glimpses of the past. Mounting foreign debt, chronic deficits and drastic budget cuts have become the order of the day in the 'rich' West. The real face of the free market economy has been brought to light to the people of those countries through the recent recession. But the most miserable of all is that the millions of people there now cannot find any work they badly need.

In Western Europe over 20 million people are out of jobs and the rising unemployment rate touches the awful 11% mark judged by Western standards. In the United States also the social safety net of the capitalist economy cannot ward off the rising trend of retrenchment and lay-offs. When 8.9 million people have turned jobless and the official rate of the rising unemployment crossed 7% mark with the little chance of slowing down, American economists have attributed an ever new term to define the current crisis : 'jobless growth'. And Japan, the Asian economic giant and the proponent of 'lifetime employment', too, totters with severe crisis so far unseen in the post-Second World War period with unemployment rate, manipulated in an artificial way, recorded at 2.3%. This gloomy picture of the rich economics will over and above reveal that out of these hordes of the unemployed about 50% in Europe, 17% in Japan and 6% in the USA, have been without a job for more than a year. The situation has reached such a pass that Mr. Pdraig Flynn, the EC Employment Commission was forced to say : 'We're squandering our people. There's somebody unemployed on every street, and on some streets there are dozens'.

The economic pundits and the governments of these countries have been taking much pain to produce a make-believe explanation of the slump and the rising joblessness. Though attempt is there to blame the cyclical recession for the rise of unemployment, the fact is that many of the jobs in the last decade and many of those being shed today will never return. In fact, all over the industrially developed world in the background of intensifying global competition the companies simply try to adapt themselves getting more work out of fewer people. On the other hand, millions of the unemployed workers—both blue-collar and white-collar—cannot be re-employed simply because the service they once rendered has become unnecessary. Some of their tasks in the industries starting from steel,

## Bengal Intellectuals Demand Impartial Enquiry into the Calcutta University Incident

*In a press statement on 8th July eminent educationists, intellectuals and journalists of West Bengal demanded an impartial and fullfledged enquiry into the incident at the Calcutta University on 24th June and punishment for the real culprits :*

**"We are aggrieved at the regrettable state of affairs centring round the recent student movement at the Calcutta University having great heritages.**

**"It is a matter of grave concern to all the education loving and well meaning people how the curtailment and lowering of the standard of education have been resorted to in this state since long. At the same time all the education loving people have been seriously concerned at the rapidly vitiating the internal atmosphere of the different educational institutions including universities.**

**"Attention of the people has been drawn to the contradictory statements in the newspapers, of University authorities, government and the students organising the movement about the incident of the 24th June. As a result it is very difficult to understand what really happened on 24th June. So in the real interest of education, truth needs to be unfolded through a real impartial enquiry. Yet the university Senate has judged the students as guilty without any enquiry and given the Vice-Chancellor the responsibility to mete out punishment to them only through review. But this is against the principle of justice. In such a situation we categorically demand that the real culprits be punished by unfolding the truth through a really neutral enquiry."**

*The following are the signatories :*

Prof. Pijus Shome Former Dean, J. U.	Dr. Anupam Dasgupta, physician Principal Sushil Roy	Kalpna Joshi Prof. Dulal Ghosh (Kalyani University)
Prof. Arun Gupta Former Register, J. U.	Prof. Satyamoy Mukhopadhyaya C.U.	Prof. Krishna Chandra Mazumder (do)
Justice Jyotirmoyee Nag	Prof. Shyamaprasad Mukhopadhyaya	Prof. Ashoke Chatterjee (do)
Jabar Goho, Advocate	Prof. Manas Joardar C. U.	Prof. Somnath Chatterjee (do)
Tapas Sen, Artist	Prof. Tarun Kumar Raha C. U.	Prof. Abdur Rokib (B. C. K. V.)
Ramapada Chowdhury, Writer	Prof. Dipendu Chakraborty C. U.	Prof. Sunanda Sanyal
Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Writer	Prof. Dhruva Mukhapadhyaya C. U.	Prithi Basu, Teachers' Leader
Dibyendu Palit (do)	Prof. Tarun Mazumder C. U.	Santosh Mukherjee (do)
Abul Bashar(do)	Prof. Mihir Chakraborty C. U.	Mukul Mukherjee, Member,W.B.
Dr. K. P. Ghosh Physician & Councillor, Cal Corpn.	Prof. Kripasindhu Choudhury, J. U.	Board of Secondary Education
Bejoy Chakraborty (Journalist)	Prof. Monidip Chattapadhyaya (do)	Bhabani Bhattacharyya (do)
Shyamal Chakraborty (do)	Prof. Sati Chattopadhyaya (do)	Srikumar Chatterjee (do)
Manas Ghosh (do)	Prof. Dibyendu Ghosh (do)	Nibarendu Choudhury (do)
Arun Bagchi (do)	Prof. Ramaprasad Dey (do)	Prof. Ajit Roy (N. B. University)
Goutam Roy (do)	Prof. Prabal Kumar Mallik, B. U.	Prof. Pradip Mondal (do)
Dhiren Debnath (do)	Prof. Sumita Chakraborty (do)	Prof. Samir Sarkar (do)
	Prof. Rathindra Nath Mukherjee (do)	Chapal Bhattacharyya (do)
	Dr. Ashim Roy Choudhury	Dr. Amit Roy

*(List incomplete)*

mining and automobile to banking have been taken over by the automatic and computer-aided 'machineries necessitating lower and lower number of workers.

The situation has become so grim that the panic-stricken leaders of those countries in their frantic attempt of the crisis have made job alone the economic, political and social issue of the '90s. That is why we hear the newly elected US President Bill Clinton say that his presidency will be measured on the number of jobs America can create over the next two and a half years. Eight out of ten Britons say unemployment is the most important issue facing their country today. France's new conservative government has called for a rescue plan to help companies avoid making additional lay-offs. The European

Community has launched an employment initiative to attack what it calls an "unacceptable" level of joblessness. And last week the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development released a 30-page report that paints a bleak picture of " where we are (8.5% average unemployment among its 24 rich members) and where we're headed (even higher)".

These information alone bring to light the current real picture of the 'rich' West posed as the paradise to the third world. It is still unknown to us whether the proponents of free market economy and globalisation of economy would learn any lesson from it!

[ Source : News Week, 14th June, 1993 ].

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : COMRADE NIHAR MUKHERJEE**

Edited & Published by Sukomal Dasgupta from 48, Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 70013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Calcutta 700 013.